

11 DEC 1998

CEREMONIAL WELCOME FOR TANZANIAN PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- President Benjamin William Mkapa of Tanzania, who arrived here this morning for a three-day state visit, was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square.

The president, accompanied by his wife, Anna Mkapa, was greeted on arrival by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah. Also present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and Cabinet ministers.

The national anthems of both countries were then played.

President Mkapa, accompanied by Tuanku Ja'afar later inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 107 officers and men of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment, led by Mej Abdul Basit Abdul Rahman.

After the ceremony, Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah accompanied President Mkapa and his wife to Carcosa Seri Negara and left 10 minutes later.

An hour later, the president received a call from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

President Mkapa's delegation includes acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Zakia Meghji, Minister of Local Government Ali Haji Ali, Minister of Energy and Minerals Abdallah Kigoda and senior government officials.

The president is scheduled to attend a delegation meeting with Dr Mahathir this afternoon. The meeting will focus on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

-- BERNAMA

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