

03 AUG 2001

Arroyo-Visit

ARROYO BEGINS STATE VISIT TO MALAYSIA ON TUESDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will make a state visit to Malaysia on Aug 7-9 at the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"This will be her first official visit since assuming the post as the 14th Philippine President on Jan 20 this year. This visit to Malaysia is also in the context of her familiarisation tour of Asean countries," Wisma Putra said in a statement here today.

Arroyo will be accompanied by her husband Jose Miguel T.Arroyo and a delegation consisting of the republic's Senate President, ministers, officials and businessmen.

The Philippine President will have an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah.

After a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, both leaders will chair a delegation meeting to discuss bilateral and regional issues of mutual concern to the two countries.

During the visit, the two governments are expected to sign three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on health, information and tourism, Wisma Putra said.

Both countries are also expected to enhance their close political and economic relations, including reactivating the various economic activities under the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines - East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

The visit will also provide an opportunity for the private sectors of both countries to renew their contacts.

-- BERNAMA

FA AHH YBY