

29 OCT 2001

Laos-Arrival

LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR THREE-DAY VISIT

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- Laotian Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith and his wife, Khammeung Vorachit, who arrived for a three-day visit to Malaysia today, were given a ceremonial welcome at Dataran Perdana, here.

They were greeted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali. The national anthems of both countries were played as soon as they arrived.

The Laotian leader later held a closed-door meeting with Dr Mahathir before attending a delegation's meeting at the Prime Minister's Department.

Earlier, Vorachith and his wife were greeted at the KL International Airport in Sepang by Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad and Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Peter Chin, who is minister-in-attendance.

The Laotian delegation also includes Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad, who is also Foreign Minister, and 10 businessmen.

Vorachith and his wife are scheduled to have an audience with the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Sultan of Terengganu, and Permaisuri of Terengganu at Istana Negara tomorrow.

The Laotian Prime Minister and his delegation would be given a briefing on the Multimedia Super Corridor at Cyberjaya and visit the Malaysian Palm Oil Board at Bangi and the national car factory, Proton, at Shah Alam.

Vorachith will also attend a luncheon and dialogue session with members of the Malaysian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Hotel Istana in Kuala Lumpur.

His wife has a separate itinerary and will visit the Kompleks Kraf Kuala Lumpur, Royal Selangor pewter factory and the Orchid Farm at Taman Tasik Perdana.

-- BERNAMA

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