

27 AUG 2001

Megawati-Arrival

MEGAWATI ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY STATE VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri arrived here today for a two-day state visit aimed at strengthening Indonesia's ties with the other nine fellow Asean member countries.

The visit, which is at the invitation of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, is Megawati's first trip to Malaysia since she was appointed president on July 23.

Megawati was met on arrival at the KL International Airport (KLIA) by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Flying in from Singapore, Megawati, accompanied by her husband, Taufiq Kiemas, is on the last leg of her tour of the nine Asean countries in eight days.

Also in the entourage is Indonesian Foreign Minister Noer Hassan Wirajuda and a 60-member delegation.

Soon after arrival, Megawati headed for Parliament Square where she was accorded a state welcome by Sultan Salahuddin and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah.

Present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Cabinet ministers, senior government officials and representatives of the foreign mission.

At the welcoming ceremony, Megawati inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by four officers and 104 men of the First Battalion Royal Malay Regiment commanded by Mej Hamdan Musa. A 21-gun salute was also fired.

The president was then introduced to the Cabinet ministers and the representatives of the foreign mission.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, are scheduled to call on Megawati at her hotel this afternoon.

Megawati is then scheduled to have a four-eye meeting with Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

Both leaders are expected to discuss economic matters and current developments besides touching on bilateral matters between Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta.

Tonight, Megawati will call on Sultan Salahuddin and Tuanku Siti Aishah before attending a state banquet at Istana Negara.

The president is scheduled to attend a gathering of members of the Indonesian community at the Indonesian Embassy tomorrow.

Megawati and her entourage is expected to leave for home later tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

RZS HS AHH RM