

12 AUG 2002

Timor-Visit

TIMOR LOROSAE PM ACCORDED OFFICIAL WELCOME AT PUTRA SQUARE

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Timor Lorosae Prime Minister, Dr Mari Bim Amude Alkatiri, who arrived yesterday for a five-day visit, was accorded official welcome at the Putra Square here today.

He was greeted on arrival by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Alkatiri took the salute and inspected the guard-of-honour mounted by the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment comprising three officers and 104 men led by Mejar Mohd Ariffin Saimun.

Dr Alkatiri, who is heading a 27-member delegation, including 17 businessmen, later met Dr Mahathir for talks before attending the delegation meeting.

Malaysia and Timor Lorosae, among others, are expected to sign partial visa abolishment agreement.

The visit is the first by Dr Alkatiri since Timor Lorosae attained independence on May 20.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr Maria Madalena Boavida, and Secretary of State of Council of Ministers, Dr Grijorio Sousa, are in his entourage.

Dr Alkatiri is scheduled to attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department, the Petronas Twin Towers and attend a state banquet tonight at "Seri Perdana," the official residence of the prime minister.

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