

01 SEP 2003

Safica-Visit

PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI ARRIVES FOR THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO M'SIA

SEPANG, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- South African President Thabo Mbeki arrived here today for a three-day official visit to the country.

He was greeted on arrival at the KL International Airport here by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar. Transport Minister Datuk Chan Kong Kong is the minister-in-attendance.

Tomorrow, Mbeki, who is heading a 70-member delegation, will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square and later call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for bilateral talks at his office in Putrajaya.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail will host a state banquet in honour of the visiting president at the Istana Negara in the evening.

During the visit, Malaysia and South Africa are expected to sign an agreement on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation and a memorandum of understanding on the setting up of a joint commission.

Mbeki is also scheduled to address an international affairs forum organised by Malaysia's Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Isis) and deliver a keynote address at a business luncheon jointly organised by the Malaysia-South Africa Business Council and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

Mbeki's visit to the country is the second by a South African president, after the visit by President Nelson Mandela.

-- BERNAMA

NJ SNS HS RM