

13 JUN 2003

Turkey-Welcome

RED CARPET WELCOME FOR TURKISH PM

PUTRAJAYA, June 13 (Bernama) -- Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was accorded a red carpet welcome as he began a three-day visit to Malaysia today.

Erdogan and his wife, Emine, were welcomed on arrival for the ceremony at the Dataran Perdana here by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The Turkish leader and his entourage of 200 including five ministers landed at the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang this morning.

At the ceremony, the national anthems of Turkey and Malaysia were played after which the Turkish leader, accompanied by Dr Mahathir, inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 106 officers and men from the First Battalion Royal Malay Regiment led by Mej Saiful Bahari Zainol.

Malaysian Cabinet ministers and heads of foreign mission here were later introduced to Erdogan.

Both Prime Ministers later proceeded to the nearby Prime Minister's office to begin a restricted meeting which will be followed by the delegation meeting.

Dr Mahathir will host a dinner for the visiting dignitaries at the Seri Perdana tonight.

-- BERNAMA

MAM SHI AHH RM