

Jokowi receives state welcome

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ROYAL INVITATION:

Top leaders of both nations to discuss wide range of issues today

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Welcome to Malaysia, President Joko Widodo.

Today, I welcome the arrival of my friend, President Jokowi, for his first official visit to Malaysia. President Jokowi will be in Malaysia for a three-day official visit, and I believe this visit will strengthen bilateral ties between Malaysia and Indonesia.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak
Prime Minister



JKO Widodo's first visit to Malaysia in his capacity as Indonesian president was marked with a 21-gun salute at the Bunga Raya Complex here yesterday.

Popularly known as Jokowi, he and his wife, Iriana Joko Widodo, arrived here via his presidential plane, a Boeing 737-800 with "Republik Indonesia" resplendent across the light blue-and-white aircraft. The plane landed at 3.50pm.

Waiting for his arrival on the tarmac was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Both Najib and Muhyiddin were accompanied by their wives, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman.

Joko was accorded a state welcome and, upon his arrival, inspected the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment, who served as guards of honour.

Both Najib and Joko were seen smiling together as they held a brief conversation before Najib introduced Joko to ambassadors and

foreign dignitaries present.

Joko's three-day visit to Malaysia was at the invitation of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah.

Present at the complex to welcome the Indonesian president were Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Ilishammuddin Hussein, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, ambassadors and foreign dignitaries.

Joko's entourage comprised Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi; Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Sofyan Djalil; Minister of Trade Rachmat Gobel; Minister of Manpower

M. Hanif Dhakiri; head of the National Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers Overseas Nusron Wahid; Presidential Secretariat chief Djarot Sri Sullstyo; and Military Secretary to the President of the Republic of Indonesia Tri Wahyudi Sukarno.

Joko was elected in October last year, and Malaysia is his first stop in a three-leg tour that will take him to two other Asean countries.

The Indonesian president's state visit provides an opportunity for the leaders of both nations to take stock of the progress of bilateral ties between the countries.

In their bilateral meeting, to be held today, the two leaders are expected to discuss a wide range of subjects, including labour recruit-

ment, maritime and economic issues.

Indonesia is Malaysia's sixth largest trading partner globally and third largest trading partner among Asean member countries.

In 2013, total trade between the two countries was recorded at RM61.1 billion (US\$19.4 billion).

Last year, total trade reached RM54.7 billion (US\$16.9 billion) for the period between January and November.

Joko's visit is expected to boost Malaysia's role in leading Asean this year, having assumed the chairmanship from Myanmar.

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