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SEPANG: Malaysia rolled out the red carpet at the Bunga Raya Complex, KL International Airport (KLIA), here, yesterday to welcome Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who is on a three-day maiden state visit to the country.

As the president's official aircraft touched down at 3.50pm, the president, fondly known as Jokowi, and his wife, Iriana, were greeted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

On hand to welcome Jokowi and his delegation were Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar.

Also present were cabinet ministers, ambassadors and foreign dignitaries.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi is the minister-in-attendance.

Jokowi was accorded a ceremonial welcome where the national anthems of Malaysia and Indonesia were played followed by a 21-gun salute.

Later, he inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 104 officers and men from the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Major Mohd Herdi Ismail.

The visiting Jokowi was also introduced to Malaysian cabinet ministers and shook hands with foreign dignitaries who stood along the red carpet.

The visit by Jokowi, who was appointed as Indonesian president on Oct 20 last year, is at the invitation of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah.

He has brought along key cabinet ministers in his delegation, including Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Sofyan Djalil, Trade Minister Rachmat Gobel and Manpower Minister M. Hanif Dhakiri.

Jokowi will have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah followed by a state banquet at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.

Tomorrow, he is scheduled to hold meetings with Najib in Putrajaya.

Najib and his wife will also host an official limcheon in honour of Jokowi, his wife and the Indonesian delegation at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

Jokowi will be visiting Proton, with a view to exploring cooperation opportunities between the two countries in the automotive field.

He will depart for Brunei tomorrow. - Bernama