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Sultan of Terengganu installed

KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. - Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni Almarhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah has been installed as the 16th Sultan of Terengganu in a ceremony reflecting the rich tradition and culture of the Malay Sultanate.

Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin has been given the title "Al-Wathiqu Billah" during the proclamation of his installation as the Sultan of Terengganu by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad at Istana Maziah at 5pm.

The Sultan and his consort, Permaisuri Nur Zahirah, both dressed in royal yellow songket, were later crowned by the Sultan's uncle Tengku Abdul Malik ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail Nasirrudin Shah.

To mark the coronation of the Sultan, the 41st Ceremonial Battery fired a 21-gun salute near the palace grounds.

This was followed by a pledge of loyalty by the Tengku Sri Bendahara Raja, representing members of royalty and the Menteri Besar on behalf of the State Government and the people of Terengganu.

Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin later presented a brief speech where he said he would undertake his responsibility in accordance with the laws of the State and hoped for God's blessing.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, representing the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali were present to witness the historic occasion.

Also present were the Sultan of Johor, the Pengeran Muda Mahkota Brunei Darussalam, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sabah, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak and the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Melaka.

Others who were present included the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang who represented the Sultan of Pahang, the Pemangku Yang di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan, the Regent of Kelantan, the Regent of Perak, the Regent of Kedah, the Regent of Perlis, the Regent of Selangor.

Among the Menteris Besar who were present were Tan Sri Isa Samad of Negeri Sembilan, Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat of Kelantan and Datuk Abu Zahar Isnin of Malacca. Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon was also present.

A prayer was read by the State Mufti Engku Pengeran Arif DiRaja Datuk Engku Alwi Engku Ambak.

The nobat which played the Seri Istana tune, accompanied Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and Permaisuri Nur Zahirah as they left Istana Maziah at the end of the installation ceremony.

They later rode a convertible black Rolls Royce accompanied by five Royal Malaysian Armed Forces Ferret armoured vehicles.

The Royal couple travelled slowly through Jalan Sultan Zainal Abidin, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Jalan Air Jernih, Jalan Syed Zain, Jalan Pulau Kambing, Jalan Hiliran, Jalan Cabang Tiga, Jalan Sultan Mohamad, Jalan Kamaruddin and Jalan Sultan Mahmud.

The parade ended at Istana Badariah, which is about two kilometres from Istana Maziah.

During the parade, not less than 30,000 students, uniformed bodies and members of the public lined the streets waving miniature State flags to greet the Royal couple.

In the morning, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and his consort underwent a ceremonial bath (bersiram tabal) held at a dias called Panca Persada at

Istana Maziah.

Dignitaries, including Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and his wife Toh Puan Seri Aishahtun Shuhaimi, arrived as early as 6.45am at the palace to witness the ceremony.

Although the event was broadcast live over Radio Tiga Kuala Terengganu, members of the public took advantage of the public holiday to gather along the palace gates to have a closer look at the Sultan and his consort.

They witnessed the Royal couple being doused with several types of ceremonial water including the limau langir, gold water, silver water and floral water.

Immediately after the 20-minute ceremony, the 41st Ceremonial Battery fired 21-gun salute, and Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and his consort left the Panca Persada dias.

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