

24 APR 1999

Agong-Departure

TUANKU JA'AFAR LEAVES FOR SERI MENANTI

KUALA LUMPUR, April 24 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, who completes his five-year term as the 10th Yang di-Pertuan Agong tomorrow, left here today for Istana Besar Seri Menanti in Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan.

Tuanku Ja'afar, accompanied by the Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Najihah, took a special train service to Seremban from the railway station here.

The royal couple was met on arrival at the railway station by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed, and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and his wife, Datin Seri Ena Ling.

Also present at the railway station were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus and members of the board of Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad.

Earlier, Tuanku Ja'afar inspected a farewell guard-of-honour at the parliament Square.

At the railway station, Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah attended a reception where His Majesty received a souvenir presented by Dr Ling on behalf of KTM Bhd.

They were then escorted to the royal coach for the one-hour journey by Dr Ling and the other guests.

Members of the public who had gathered at the railway station waved to the royal couple as the train moved out of the station.

In SEREMBAN, the royal couple, accompanied by Abang Abu Bakar as the minister-in-attendance, was met on arrival at the railway station by the Regent of Negeri Sembilan Tunku Naquiyuddin and his consort, Tunku Puan Muda Nurul Hayati, the four Undangs and the Tunku Besar Tampin.

Also present at the railway station to welcome home the royal couple were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad and his wife, Puan Sri Hazizah Tumin, state executive councillors, State Secretary Datuk Mohamad Shaid Mohamed Taufek and government officials.

As Tuanku Ja'afar stepped on the royal dais in front of the railway station, the Negaraku and the state anthem were played by the Royal Armour Corp central band. A 21-gun salute was also simultaneously fired.

Tuanku Ja'afar later inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by two officers and 101 men of the Royal Signals Corp led by Mej Indrajeet Singh. This was followed by the recital of the doa by State Mufti Datuk Mohamed Murtadza Ahmad.

The royal couple then left in a motorcade for lunch hosted by the state government at the Allson Klana Resort, about two kilometres from the station.

Hundreds of schoolchildren and members of the public waving flags were present at the premises of the railway station to welcome home the royal couple.

A welcoming ceremony at Istana Besar Seri Menanti will be held in the afternoon.

The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah becomes the 11th Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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