

PERLIS RULER IS NEW KING

STAR 13 DEC 2001

KUALA LUMPUR: The Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, was yesterday elected the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong by the Conference of Rulers.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced this in a statement issued after the 191st and special meeting of the Rulers at Istana Negara here.

The meeting also re-elected Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Both appointments would be for a five-year term effective today, Dr Mahathir said.

Tuanku Sved Sirajuddin succeeds Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah of Selangor who died on Nov 21.

Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin was first elected Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong on April 26, 1999, the same day Sultan Salahuddin was elected King.

Article 38 of the Federal Constitution empowers the Conference of Rulers to elect the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

All the nine Rulers -- Raja of Perlis, Sultan of Selangor, Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan of Pahang, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan, Sultan of Kedah, Sultan of Perak and Sultan of Johor -- attended the meeting.

The election of the Raja of Perlis as King follows a system of rotation among the

rulers. They take turns to be Head of State for a five-year term under a unique constitutional monarchy.

The rotation completed its first cycle when Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak became the constitutional monarch in 1989.

The second round began in 1994 when Sultan Azlan Shah was succeeded by the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan, Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Tuanku Jaafar's father, Tuanku Abdul Rahman, and whose photograph appears on Malaysia's legal tender notes, was the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong, serving from 1957 until his death in office in 1960.

Born in Arau on May 16, 1943, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ascended the Perlis throne on April 17, 2000, a day after the death of his father, Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

Tuanku Sved Sirajuddin was formally installed "as the Raja of Perlis on May 7.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin married Tengku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid on Feb 15, 1967, and they have a son, Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, 34, and a daughter, Sharifah Fazira, 28.

Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, 39, and his consort Permaisuri Nur Zahirah have two children -- daughter Tengku Nadhirah Zahrah, five, and son Tengku Muhammad Ismail, three. - Bernama