

15 JAN 2001

Agong-Gallery

AGONG PLAYS TOUR GUIDE TO PM AND MINISTERS AT ROYAL GALLERY

KLANG, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah set aside protocol today to be the gracious royal tour guide.

The King personally briefed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Cabinet ministers who toured Galeri Diraja Sultan Abdul Aziz at Kampung Jawa here.

With understandable pride, the King, accompanied by Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, provided informative insight into the history of the gallery's collection, artefacts and memorabilia.

Besides the King's collection of kris, the gallery has, among other things, a rare item -- the skull of a 6.7-metre-long crocodile which once terrorised the Klang River but later "surrendered" to a pawang (traditional medicine-man) and was caught during his coronation as the Sultan of Selangor in 1961.

During the hour-long tour, his majesty also showed Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, the royal collection of antique cars.

The gallery, a brainchild of the King himself, was opened to the public last November and is the latest tourist attraction in this royal town.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak also joined the tour.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohamed Khir Toyo, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali and Selangor State Secretary Datuk Ambrin Buang were also present.

Their majesties later entertained the guests to a luncheon at the nearby Istana Kenangan.

-- BERNAMA

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