

01/12/2001

Decision on next King in two weeks

ALOR STAR, Fri. - The Conference of Rulers, which is scheduled to be held on Dec 12, is expected to decide on the next Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The nine Malay rulers will elect the next King following the death of Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah on Nov 21.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was up to the Rulers to decide the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong and his deputy.

"It's up to them (the Malay Rulers) ... the Yang di-Pertua Negeri are not involved in this and neither am I.

"The Rulers will meet and make a decision on who should be the next King," he said when asked on the Rulers' Conference.

Asked if it was possible for a Ruler who had been King previously to be appointed again, Dr Mahathir said based on the rotation system it would take 45 years for a Ruler to get another chance.

"No Ruler has had the chance to become the Yang di-Pertuan Agong twice yet ... it's difficult as it takes 45 years."

Asked if such possibility could arise this time around, the Prime Minister said: "I don't know ... it's up to the Rulers to decide.

"If we follow the rotation, it's Perlis' turn to be the next King. However, there have been cases where senior Rulers were not interested to become the King, like the case of Rulers from Johor and Perak."

(END)