

30 NOV 2001

LEAD-Agong

12TH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TO BE ELECTED ON DEC 12

ALOR SETAR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- A meeting of the Conference of Rulers will be held on Dec 12 to elect the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the nine Malay Rulers would select the candidates from among themselves for the two top posts.

Dr Mahathir said this when replying to questions from reporters on the meeting of the Rulers Conference. He was met by reporters after he had visited the Kompleks Kelahiran Mahathir Mohamad in Jalan Kilang Ais, here.

Dr Mahathir said going by the rotation, the Raja of Perlis should be the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong but this depended on the decision of the Rulers Conference.

A new Yang di-Pertuan Agong would have to be elected following the death of the 11th Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah on Nov 21.

Asked whether it was possible for the most senior Sultan or Raja to be elected as the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the Conference of Rulers.

Responding to other questions, Dr Mahathir said it was quite rare for the same Sultan or Raja to assume the post of Yang di-Pertuan Agong twice.

"This is because the turn for the same candidate to become Yang di-Pertuan Agong will come in about 45 years," he said.

The rotation for the Malay Rulers to become Yang di-Pertuan Agong for a five-year term entered its second round seven years ago when the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Jaafar Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman assumed the post and was followed by Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah of Selangor in 1999.

Of the present nine Malay Rulers, five of them -- Sultan of Kedah, Sultan of Pahang, Sultan of Johor, Sultan of Perak and the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan had served as Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan of Terengganu, Raja of Perlis and the Sultan of Selangor who had served as Yang di-Pertuan Agong had since died and had been succeeded by their sons.

-- BERNAMA

JM NMO AU AAM