

13 DEC 2001

King-Welcome

IN-COMING KING GETS OFFICIAL WELCOME AHEAD OF SWEARING-IN

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's in-coming king, the Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Almarhum Syed Putra Jamalullail, was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Parliament Square ahead of a separate swearing-in ceremony.

He was accompanied by the Raja Perempuan of Perlis and in-coming Queen Tengku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was elected Malaysia's 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong or paramount ruler for a five-year term from today under a unique rotation system among the nine Malay Rulers who make up the Conference of Malay Rulers.

He succeeded Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah of Selangor who died on Nov 21.

The motorcade taking Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and Tengku Fauziah arrived at Parliament Square at 9 am and their majesties were received by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The ceremony, steeped in the tradition of Malaysia's constitutional monarchy began with the royal salute by the guard of honour as the national anthem "Negaraku" was played simultaneously with a 21-gun salute.

The Sandhurst-trained Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, who once served with the Reconnaissance Regiment, then inspected the guard of honour mounted by 104 officers and men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment commanded by Maj Mohamed Ariffin Suhaimi.

The Federal Territory Mufti Datuk Hashim Yahaya then recited prayers for divine blessing of the ceremony.

This was followed by Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin taking a second salute from the guard of honour as the military band again played "Negaraku".

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was then introduced to members of the Cabinet and deputy ministers.

The royal couple then left for Istana Perlis here before proceeding to Istana Negara for Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin to take the oath of office and sign documents constituting the instruments of kingship.

-- BERNAMA

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