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Agong-Condolences

KING FAHD AMONG WORLD LEADERS WHO HAVE SENT CONDOLENCES

By: Shakir Husain in Dubai and Harlina Samson in Kuala Lumpur

DUBAI, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Saudi Arabia's King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz is among several world leaders who have sent messages of condolences on the death of the 11th Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

The others include Iran's President Mohammed Khatami and United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The messages were sent to the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

President Mohammed Khatami offered his prayers for the late King in the message sent to the Prime Minister.

UAE Vice-President and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Sharjah's Ruler Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi also sent condolences to Sultan Misan and Dr Mahathir.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz also sent similar messages of condolences.

The Malaysian community in the UAE reacted with profound shock and sadness after learning of His Majesty's demise.

A scheduled visit by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to the UAE in September did not materialise but Malaysians here were expecting to see the king soon.

Meanwhile Acting New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Anderton in a statement said the death of the King marked a sad day for both Malaysia and New Zealand.

"It has been hoped that the King and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong will make a state visit to New Zealand in January next year and I am saddened that we will be unable to welcome Their Majesties. It had been the King's personal wish to visit New Zealand."

"We extend our greatest sympathy to the Royal family, in particular to Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong, and also to the Government and people of Malaysia at this time of national mourning." he said.

Sultan Salahuddin died at 11.57am on Wednesday at the Gleneagles Intan Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

-- BERNAMA

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