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Agong (News Focus)

KING IS FOCUS OF NATIONAL UNITY AND HARMONY

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) - The death of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah today marked another chapter in modern Malaysian history where the nine Malay rulers are symbols of national unity and harmony.

Well-respected and honoured, the nine rulers have a stabilising role among the country's multi-racial communities.

The rulers are heads of their respective states while the King, rotated every five years from among the nine rulers, is head of the nation.

And together, they command the loyalty of every Malaysian at all times.

Sultan Salahuddin, 75, was the second ruler of Selangor to be elected the Yang di-Pertuan Agong by his royal peers. His father, Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah was elected the second King but died a few hours before the installation ceremony on Sept 1, 1960.

Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah took over as Yang di-Pertuan Agong from the first King, Tuanku Abdul Rahman Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad, who died in his sleep on April 1, 1960.

Tuanku Abdul Rahman, whose portrait graces every Malaysian currency note, was the Yang Di-pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan when he was installed as the first King on Sept 2, 1957, three days after the proclamation of independence of Malaya.

The rotation system has served the Malaysian political system very well since independence. To date, the rotation has gone into the second round with the ruler of each of the nine states elected as the King at least once.

In the case of Negeri Sembilan and Selangor, their rulers had served as King twice.

The nine Malay Rulers will meet within four weeks to elect the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today when announcing the death of Sultan Salahuddin.

He said until the new Yang DiPertuan Agong was elected by the nine rulers, the present deputy, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu, would act as the Yang di-Pertuan agong.

PAST KINGS

The following are the past Yang di-Pertuan Agongs in chronological order since the office was created in 1957:

1. YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

Tuanku Abdul Rahman Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad

Deceased : April 1, 1960 (died in his sleep)

Installation : Sept 2, 1957

Reign : Aug 3, 1957 - April 1, 1960

2. SULTAN OF SELANGOR

Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Al-Haj Ibni

Almarhum Sultan Ala'iddin Sulaiman Shah

Deceased : Sept 1, 1960

Installation : Sept 1, 1960 (died hours before installation)

Reign : Acted as King from April 4, 1960

3. RAJA OF PERLIS

Tuanku Syed Putra Ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail

Deceased : April 16, 2000

Installation : Jan 4, 1961

Reign : Sept 21, 1960 - Sept 20, 1965

4. SULTAN OF TERENGGANU

Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin

Deceased : Sept 20, 1979

Installation : Sept 21, 1965

Reign : Sept 21 1965 - Sept 20, 1970

5. SULTAN OF KEDAH

Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah

Installation : Feb 20, 1971

Reign : Jan 21, 1970 - Sept 20, 1975

6. SULTAN OF KELANTAN

Sultan Yahya Petra Ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim

Deceased : March 29, 1979

Installation : Feb 28, 1976

Reign : Sept 21, 1975 - March 29, 1979

7. SULTAN OF PAHANG

Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah

Installation : July 10, 1980

Reign : April 26, 1979 - April 25, 1984

8. SULTAN OF JOHOR

Sultan Mahmood Iskandar Al-Haj Ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail

Installation : Nov 15, 1984

Reign : Apri 15, 1984 - April 25, 1989

9. SULTAN OF PERAK

Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuff Izzuddin Ghafarullahulahu Shah

Installation : Sept 18, 1989

Reign : April 26, 1989 - April 25, 1994

10. YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

Tuanku Ja'afar Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman

Installation : 22 September 1994

Reign : April 16, 1994 - April 25, 1999

11. SULTAN OF SELANGOR

Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Hishamuddin Alam
Shah

Deceased: Nov 21, 2001

Installation : Sept 23, 1999

Reign : April 26, 1999 - Nov 21, 2001

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