

19 MAR 2001

Parliament-Opening

KING OPENS THIRD SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah today opened the first meeting of the Third Session of the 10th Parliament.

The ceremonial opening began soon after the arrival of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Siti Aishah at 10am at Parliament Square.

Their Majesties were received by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, Dewan Negara President Datuk Michael Chen and Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail.

Their Majesties were escorted to the royal dais and then the national anthem, "Negara Ku" was played.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong then inspected a guard of honour mounted by 107 officers and men of the Royal Malay Regiment under the command of Mejar Abu Samah Mat Nor.

As soon as the King began inspecting the guard of honour, the first of a 21-gun salute boomed out.

Soon after the Parliament Square ceremony, Their Majesties adjourned to the royal rest room at Parliament House.

They later entered the Dewan Rakyat in ceremony and the King then delivered his opening address.

Parliament will be in session for 25 days during which the Eighth Malaysia Plan and the Third Outline Perspective Plan will be tabled.

A total of 11 Bills including the Gas Supply (Amendment) Bill 2001, Postal Services (Amendment) Bill 2001 and Digital Signature (Amendment) Bill is expected to be tabled.

--BERNAMA

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