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Agong-Appointment

MALAY RULERS TO MEET WITHIN FOUR WEEKS TO ELECT NEW KING

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's nine Malay Rulers will meet within four weeks to elect the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

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

He said this at a press conference after officially announcing the death of Malaysia's 11th King Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah over Radio Television Malaysia.

Sultan Salahuddin, 75, died at the Gleneagles Intan Medical Centre at 11.57am today of heart failure and other complications following two months of treatment at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore and here.

A sombre-looking Dr Mahathir said: "I'm very much saddened because he had been a good friend and we worked very closely.

"I didn't expect him to go so fast," said Dr Mahathir who was at the medical centre before going to Angkasapuri to announce his majesty's demise over RTM.

Asked about his feelings and affection for the late king, he said: "I miss him a lot."

The prime minister said Sultan Salahuddin had been a very active king.

He said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong visited various places, departments and ministries almost daily.

"I knew he was not very well because he already had a heart operation and other complications, but he insisted that he should perform his duties as the Agong," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the late Sultan Salahuddin carried out his duties dedicatedly.

"I think he had been a very good Agong," he said.

The King had been on a ventilator ever since he returned from Singapore on Sunday after undergoing treatment at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital where he had been warded since Sept 20.

Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said yesterday that from Oct 6, the King's heart failure progressively worsened and he suffered renal failure on Oct 16.

Subsequently the King took a turn for the worse and his condition began deteriorating rapidly.

At the Gleneagles Medical Centre this morning, Sultan Mizan and Permaisuri Nur Zahirah were among those who visited Sultan Salahuddin.

Others include the Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai, Attorney-General Datuk Seri Ainum Mohd Saaid and Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

-- BERNAMA

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