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Agong-Roundup

NATION OBSERVES A WEEK'S MOURNING

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- The nation will observe a week's mourning following the demise of the 11th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah at Gleneagles Intan Medical Centre, here today.

The King, 75, breathed his last at 11.57 am, after being in critical condition for five days and relying on ventilator and dialysis machines. Sultan Salahuddin had been unwell for two months due to heart problems.

The King's death was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad via live telecast by Radio Television Malaysia throughout the country at 1.55 pm.

The government declared a seven-day mourning period beginning today with flags flying at half-mast. All official government functions slated for today and tomorrow had been cancelled.

The government also declared a public holiday tomorrow to enable the people to pay their respects to the King at Istana Negara.

The Selangor government declared a 40-day mourning period in the state as a mark of respect for Sultan Salahuddin who was also the Sultan of Selangor for 41 years.

The lying-in-state for the King's remains will be held at Istana Negara tomorrow morning before burial at the Royal Mausoleum in Klang.

The people can pay their last respects until 12 noon.

The King's remains were now at Istana Selangor here for preparations for final rites to be solemnised at the National Mosque tomorrow morning prior to the lying-in-state.

All mosques and suraus nationwide are asked to hold tahlil prayers after the Terawih prayers beginning tonight until next Wednesday.

According to a statement from the Information Department, all mosques in the Federal Territory will hold a special tahlil prayers after Friday prayers on Friday.

People from all walks of life expressed their expressed deep sadness over the demise of Sultan Salahuddin who in his lifetime was well-known for his down-to-earth manner and closeness to the rakyat.

The Dewan Rakyat which was sitting today also recorded deep sadness over the King's demise.

Messages of condolence were also received from abroad including from Queen Elizabeth and President S.R. Nathan of Singapore.

-- BERNAMA

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