

13 DEC 2001

Agong-Oath

RAJA OF PERLIS TAKES OATH OF OFFICE AS 12TH AGONG

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- The Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail today took his oath of office to serve as Malaysia's Yang di-Pertuan Agong or constitutional monarch for the next five years.

The oath-taking ceremony held at the Throne Room of Istana Negara here marked the 192nd and special meeting of the Conference of Malay Rulers.

At its 191st meeting yesterday the Conference of Malay Rulers elected Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin as the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, succeeding Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah of Selangor who died on Nov 21.

Today's ceremony also witnessed the oath-taking by Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu who was re-elected the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong at yesterday's special meeting.

Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin was first chosen as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong when Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz was elected King in April 1999.

The ceremony commenced with the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal Engku Datuk Ibrahim Engku Ngah announcing that the 192nd meeting of the Conference of Malay Rulers was for the new King and the Deputy King to take their oath of office.

Engku Ibrahim then submitted to Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin the letter bearing the oath of office which the Ruler read out before putting down the royal signature.

Engku Ibrahim then presented the document to the Sultan of Pahang and the Sultan of Perak for them to sign as witnesses.

The same procedure was repeated when Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin took his oath of office as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Engku Ibrahim then announced that the 192nd meeting of the Conference of Malay Rulers would adjourn sine die.

With this segment of the ceremony over, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir then rose and presented the letters of appointment to be signed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong respectively.

Dr Mahathir read out the declaration that Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin had taken his oath of office as the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong and that Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin had taken his as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The ceremony, which was telecast by Radio and Television Malaysia, embodied the rich and unique tradition of Malaysia's constitutional monarchy. The Federal Constitution, under Article 38, empowers the nine Malay Rulers to elect among them to take turn to be Malaysia's Head of State for a five-year term.

Today's ceremony, which ended with recital of prayers by the Federal Territory Mufti Datuk Hashim Yahya, was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, menteri besar, chief ministers, members of the Cabinet, the Dewan Rakyat, the Senate, royalty and senior government officers.

Dr Mahathir then led his Cabinet members and other dignitaries to have an audience with Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin.

-- BERNAMA
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