

12 DEC 2001

King-Perlis

RAJA OF PERLIS ELECTED NEW KING, SULTAN OF TERENGGANU IS DEPUTY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- The Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail was today elected Malaysia's 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong by the Conference of Malay Rulers.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced this in a two-paragraphed statement issued after the 191st and special meeting of the Conference of Malay Rulers at Istana Negara here.

The meeting also re-elected Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Both appointments would be for a five-year term effective tomorrow, Dr Mahathir said.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin succeeded Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah who died on Nov 21.

As for Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, he was first elected the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong on April 26, 1999 the same day that Sultan Salahuddin, then the Sultan of Selangor, was elected King.

Article 38 of the Federal Constitution empowers the Conference of Malay Rulers to elect the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

All the nine Malay Rulers namely the Raja of Perlis, the Sultan of Selangor, the Sultan of Terengganu, the Sultan of Kelantan, the Sultan of Pahang, the Yang Dipertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, the Sultan of Kedah, the Sultan of Perak and the Sultan of Johor attended today's special meeting.

The election of the Raja of Perlis as the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong follows a system of rotation among Malaysia's nine Malay Rulers.

They take turn to be Head of State for a five-year term under the world's unique Constitutional Monarchy only practised in Malaysia.

The rotation for kingship among the nine Malay Rulers completed its first cycle when Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak became the constitutional monarch in 1989.

The second round of the rotation began in 1994 when Sultan Azlan Shah was succeeded by the Yang Dipertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Tuanku Jaafar's father, Tuanku Abdul Rahman of Negeri Sembilan and whose photograph appeared on Malaysia's legal tender notes, was the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong serving from 1957 until his death in office in 1960.

Born in Arau on May 16, 1943, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ascended the Perlis throne on April 17, 2000 a day after the death of his father Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was formally installed as the Raja of Perlis on May 7 this year.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin married Tengku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid on Feb 15, 1967 and they have a son Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, 34, and a daughter Sharifah Fazira, 28.

Kuala Terengganu-born Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, 39, was proclaimed the 16th Sultan of Terengganu on May 15, 1998 and was formally installed on April 3, 1999.

He married Permaisuri Nur Zahirah on March 28, 1996 and they have two children, daughter Tengku Nadhirah Zahrah, five, and son Tengku Muhammad Ismail, three.

-- BERNAMA

AKT AU RYN

