

07 MAY 2001

Raja-Installation

TUANKU SYED SIRAJUDDIN INSTALLED AS RAJA OF PERLIS

KANGAR, May 7 (Bernama) -- Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail was today installed as the seventh Raja of Perlis in a ceremony steeped in tradition at Istana Arau near here.

The ceremony was presided by the Tengku Syarif Bendahara of Perlis before the representatives of Their Royal Highnesses the Malay Rulers and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, who succeeded as the Raja of Perlis on April 17, kissed the royal kris signifying his acceptance of his installation as the Ruler of Perlis and all its territories.

Soon after Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim led those present in shouts of "Daulat Tuanku" three times which echoed through the Balai Rong Seri or Throne Room and immediately the first of a 21-gun salute boomed out.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail, who will be 58 on May 16, is the first Raja of Perlis to be installed since independence on Aug 31, 1957.

Earlier the Raja of Perlis received the Quran and the royal instruments of office handed over by state dignitaries.

Perlis Mufti Datuk Alim Panglima Mat Jahya Hussin presented the Quran and was followed by Tengku Syarif Bendahara who handed over the state sword and a silver container while the Menteri Besar gave a kris called "Seri Rakyat Tunggak Diraja" and a copy of the Perlis Constitution.

At the ceremony Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail installed his consort Tengku Fauziah Abdul Rashid as the Raja Perempuan of Perlis.

Earlier three decorated elephants bearing the Quran and other gifts led a procession from the Sekolah Menengah Arau about a kilometre away from the palace.

Thousands of people and tourists lined the route to watch the procession.

Following the three elephants in procession were 22 Lance bearers, seven bunga rampai bearers, 12 representatives of the various races, 14 musicians of the royal court and seven Royal Yellow Umbrella bearers.

Eleven bearers of the Royal Malaysia Police Standard and eleven more bearing the Malaysian Armed Forces Standard were also in the procession.

The procession went through the Arau old town and the Royal Mausoleum before stopping at Istana Arau to hand over the royal gifts to the dignitaries and members of royalty waiting there.

The first elephant bore the Al Quran, the second the royal sword and silver container and the third the kris and constitution.

The Raja of Perlis thanked the Prime Minister and the Federal Government for their help to Perlis and its people.

He said the aid had greatly helped to ease the financial burden of Perlis.

He was happy over the government's efforts to encourage the people to master Information Communication Technology (ICT) and hoped the people would reap benefits from it.

The Ruler said Perlis would emerge stronger if the people mastered ICT and other knowledge.

He urged the people to remain united for otherwise they would be at the losing end.

Shahidan in congratulating the Ruler and pledging loyalty on behalf of

the state government and people, said Perlis was seeking RM3.8 billion for its development projects under the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

He said the projects included three highways -- Padang Besar to Bukit Kayu Hitam, Padang Besar to Jitra and Kuala Perlis to Bukit Puteh.

Also among the proposed projects were a university and a polytechnic.

The Menteri Besar said Perlis aspired to be a fully developed state by 2010.

On behalf of the royalty, the Raja Muda of Perlis, Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail congratulated the newly installed Ruler.

More than 5,000 flag-waving schoolchildren lined the route from Kangar to Arau and waved as the royal motorcade passed by.

-- BERNAMA

AD AAM