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Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin installed as new Raja of Perlis

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ARAU, Mon. - Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Syed Putra Jamalullail was today installed as the seventh ruler of Perlis in a glittering ceremony steeped in tradition at Istana Arau.

The ceremony was held before the representatives of the Malay Rulers and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It began at 9.30am with an elaborate royal parade featuring lance and spear-carrying guards, bearers of bunga rampai, bunga emas, tepak sireh, flags and umbrellas.

Accompanying the parade were musicians, representatives of the various communities and elephants carrying the Quran, the State Constitution, the Government Sword and the Keris Persembahan Rakyat.

The parade travelled a 1.5km route from Sekolah Menengah Arau to the palace, which was lined with hundreds of residents watching the parade.

The ceremonies began with Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin inspecting a guard-of-honour mounted by 103 members and three officers of the Fourth Battalion of the Oran Royal Ranger Regiment.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and the royal entourage then entered the palace for the installation ceremony. Inside the throne room, the ceremonial items earlier carried on the elephants were presented to the Ruler.

The Tengku Syarif Bendahara Datuk Seri DiRaja Syed Badaruddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail and Tengku Syarif Temenggung Datuk Seri DiRaja Syed Amir Abidin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail then proclaimed the installation.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin then held out the royal keris, and kissed it.

This was followed by the hailing of "Daulat Tuanku" three times, led by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

The installation of the Ruler was followed by a 21-gun salute and the State anthem.

Shortly after this, the Ruler installed Tengku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid as Tuanku Raja Perempuan Perlis.

Witnessing the royal event were Raja Muda Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra and Raja Puan Muda Lailatul Shahreen Akashah, representatives of the Malay Rulers and a representative of the Sultan of Brunei.

Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteris Besar, Chief Ministers and ambassadors were also present.

Born in Arau on May 16, 1943, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin is the second child of the late Tuanku Syed Putra and the Raja Perempuan Tuanku Budriah.

The Ruler married Tengku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, a member of the Kelantan royal house, on Feb 15, 1967.

The royal couple has been blessed with a son, Syed Faizuddin, who is now the Raja Muda of Perlis and a daughter, Sharifah Fazira.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was made Raja Muda on Oct 30, 1960.

He was proclaimed the Raja of Perlis on April 17 last year after the death of his father, Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

Currently the commanding officer of Regiment 504 with the rank of colonel, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin is a Sandhurst-trained cadet.

He is also the second Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia, replacing his late father.

Celebrations in his honour will continue tomorrow with a Parade of the People in Kangar, several concerts and public performances.

In his installation speech, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin advised the people to

avoid situations that could cause a split and disharmony among them.

The Ruler said the people should always remain united and not resort to negative actions like boycotting each other.

He also wanted to see the people show their support to the Government to enable smooth implementation of development projects in the State.

"I urge the people of Perlis to support the efforts taken by the Government to develop Perlis and to transform it into a developed, rich and peaceful State," he said.

He said he was happy with the efforts taken by the State Government to develop Perlis in the last decade.

Perlis, he added, had emerged from a backward State to become a developed and progressive one.

"I am very proud with the socio-economic development which is a result of the hard work of the State leaders," he added.

The Ruler also expressed hope that the Federal Government which place heavy emphasis on information technology would assist the State and its people develop in the field.

"Our power will be stronger when people who are knowledgeable unite to support the Government," he added.

Reminding his subjects to increase always their efforts to acquire knowledge in order not to lag behind the present stream of world development, the Ruler said a country could only become well-developed if its people were knowledgeable.

Meanwhile, the Raja Muda of Perlis, representing the Perlis royal household, in his congratulatory speech said he believed Perlis would continue to progress in the new decade.

He also thanked Shahidan for the elaborate preparations for the installation ceremony.

Representing the people of Perlis, Shahidan in pledging loyalty to the Ruler, gave an assurance that the fruits of development and wealth of the State would be shared by all the people.

He said the State Government had applied for a RM3.4 billion allocation under the Eighth Malaysia Plan to carry out various development projects for the well-being of the people.

"The State is targeted to achieve developed status in 2010 and will take various measures, including diversifying the economic base, increasing production in various sectors and to improve the quality of life of the people," he added.