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Faulty nose-gear forces landing of royal plane

KUALA LUMPUR: An aircraft with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid on board was forced to return to the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang yesterday because of a mechanical fault.

The RMAF Fokker 28 carrying the King and the Queen had to turn around 10 minutes after take-off because its nose-wheel would not retract.

The royal entourage waited for about 40 minutes before being transferred to another aircraft, a Falcon jet which took off at 10.30am and landed in Kuching at 12.05pm.

Among those accompanying the King and Queen were Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie and wife Datin Amar Elizabeth Moggie.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Cabinet Ministers saw them off.

The King and Queen are on a four-day visit to Sarawak.