

25 APR 2002  
Agong-Installation  
KING INSTALLED WITH FULL POMP AND PAGEANTRY

By Hafizah Kamaruddin

KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 (Bernama) -- The Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, 58, was installed as the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong with full pomp and pageantry at the Balairong Seri or Throne Room of Istana Negara today.

The trumpet was sounded and the Nobat or the Royal Ensemble from Istana Kedah struck up the "Raja Berangkat" (The King Goes Forth) to announce the arrival of Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid at the Balairong Seri.

The ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses the Malay Rulers, Members of the Royal Household, Their Excellencies the Yang Dipertuas Negeri and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Also present were Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers, Menteris Besar, members of the foreign diplomatic corps and local and foreign distinguished guests.

The installation ceremony began at about 10am and was carried live by RTM.

The ceremony began with the arrival of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong at the Balairong Seri led by the Grand Chamberlain, Datuk Zubir Ali and the bearers of the "Mace of the Universe" and the "Mace of Religion."

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Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was in the official ceremonial outfit of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, comprising the black royal muscat embroidered in gold thread, long black pants, the royal head-dress with the fold known as "Dendam Tak Sudah" (Unendingly Passionate).

His Majesty wore the gold and diamond studded Royal Waist Buckle with the Federal Government crest in the middle, together with a girdle made of wool and embroidered in golden flowers.

From his waist hung the Royal Short Kris made of ancient kris blades and ivory studded with gold engravings.

Tuanku Fauziah was in the ceremonial dress of the Raja Permaisuri Agong, crowned with the Royal Tiara and also wore the Royal Necklace made of platinum encrusted with diamonds.

The installation ceremony began as Their Majesties were seated on the throne.

The Master of Ceremonies Datuk Ishak Ahmad, who is also the Controller of the Royal Household, brought into the Balairong Seri a copy of the Quran while Istana Negara officials led by the Grand Chamberlain carried the Government Kris, Letter of Proclamation and the Royal Oath to the accompaniment of "Menjunjung Duli" by the Nobat.

The Quran, the symbol of Malaysia's official religion, was presented to His Majesty by the Grand Chamberlain.

The Prime Minister then read out the Letter of Proclamation written in jawi on goat hide.

The Grand Chamberlain then presented the Government Kris or the Royal Long Dagger, the symbol of power and authority, to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The ceremonial kris is the dominant national symbol, denoting grandeur, status, and power in the hands of those who hold and possess one.

His Majesty then drew the kris, kissed it and returned it to its sheath before placing it on the table on his left, in front of the Quran.

His Majesty then gave his pledge as the Paramount Ruler of Malaysia.

Soon after the Letter of Proclamation was read, then the trumpet sounded once more and the Nobat rendered the "Raja Bertabal" (The King is Crowned) and this was followed with shouts of "Daulat Tuanku" (Long Live Your Majesty) thrice by the Grand Chamberlain, and was repeated by those present.

Then the first of a 21-Gun Salute boomed out and the Royal Malaysia Police Band struck up the Negaraku.

Dr Mahathir on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia congratulated and pledged loyalty to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The King then delivered his royal address.

Istana Negara Religious Affairs officer Datuk Abu Hassan Din read the doa selamat.

The Grand Chamberlain then received the copy of the Quran from His Majesty and then announced that the installation ceremony was over. Their Majesties then took their leave from the Balairong Seri.

The trumpet was again sound and the Nobat played the "Raja Berangkat" with the Grand Chamberlain leading Their Majesties out of the Throne Room and followed by the Controller of the Royal Household bearing the Quran and the bearers of the Mace of the Universe and the Mace of Religion and other royal regalia.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was elected the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at a special meeting of the Conference of Rulers on Dec 12 following the death of Tuanku Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah on Nov 21 last year.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was ceremoniously sworn in on Dec 13 last year. His Majesty will reign for a five-year period, God willing.

Usually the installation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is not held simultaneously with the swearing-in but after a few months or a certain period of time.

-- BERNAMA

HK MFJ AAM