

## **Malaysia witnesses Sultan Ibrahim's installation as 17th Agong**

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The installation of Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar as the 17th Yang di-Pertuan Agong will be held in a ceremony steeped in Malay royal customs and tradition at Istana Negara today, marking a historic and momentous event for the nation.

The ceremony, set in the grandeur of Balairung Seri at Istana Negara, serves as a formal proclamation to the world that Sultan Ibrahim has ascended to the throne as the Supreme Head of the Federation, entrusted with the solemn duty of safeguarding Malaysians during his five-year reign.

Thirty-four million Malaysians eagerly await this moment, which captures the attention of the international community, showcasing the unique and enduring legacy of the constitutional monarchy system that Malaysia has upheld since its independence in 1957.

The installation ceremony, in accordance with Article 32(1) of the Federal Constitution, underscores the continuity of the rotational system among the nine Malay rulers. This tradition, overseen by the Conference of Rulers, highlights the

distinctive practice of electing and appointing the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, a system unique to Malaysia.

Notably, Sultan Ibrahim's ascension marks the first time he sits on the federal throne, becoming the second generation of the Johor Sultanate to hold this esteemed position after his father, the late Sultan Iskandar Sultan Ismail, reigned as the eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong from 1984 to 1989.

According to the rotational system of Malaysia's nine monarchical states, the order of succession since 1957 has been Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, Perlis, Terengganu, Kedah, Kelantan, Pahang, Johor, and Perak.

The second cycle started in 1994 when the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, was installed as the 10th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Meticulous preparations for the ceremony have transformed Istana Negara into a venue befitting this historic occasion, adorned with decorations symbolising the high stature of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as a sovereign institution.

## **Excitement**

The capital city is abuzz with excitement, featuring digital displays, banners, and

billboards congratulating Sultan Ibrahim in celebrating this grand tradition, which takes place every five years.

The Grand Chamberlain of Istana Negara Azuan Effendy Zairakithnaini said while the ceremonial aspects of the king's installation have remained consistent since 1957, each event possesses a unique charm, enhanced by the personal touches of Sultan Ibrahim and Tuanku Permaisuri Raja Zarith Sofiah.

Azuan said the installation ceremony will also witness Sultan Ibrahim using the country's royal regalia, such as the "pending diraja" (the royal waist buckle), used by Sultan Iskandar when he was crowned as Malaysia's head of state.

"One of the significant elements in the installation ceremony is the music played by the Royal Orchestra of Perak, which certainly evokes nostalgia, as the same instrumental ensemble was used in the installation ceremony of the late Sultan Iskandar," he said.

Sultan Ibrahim was named the 17th king at the special 263rd meeting of the Conference of Rulers, at Istana Negara, on Oct 27, 2023.

His Majesty replaces Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah of Pahang, whose reign as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong ended on Jan 30.

The installation ceremony will commence at 9am today, conducted with strict adherence to the order and rules of protocol, each element laden with symbolism, such as the military ceremony serving as a prelude to the grand occasion, symbolising the pledge of loyalty of the national defence forces to the king, their supreme commander.

About 700 guests, including the Malay rulers, governors, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, cabinet ministers, foreign dignitaries and leaders will attend the historical event.

The Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, and the King of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, are also expected to attend.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on Radio Televisyen Malaysia and other local television stations, as well as across various social media platforms.

For the first time, the public can also witness the ceremony through “wayang pacak” - an outdoor movie screening - prepared by the Information Department, in collaboration with the Madani Community, at all 222 parliamentary constituencies nationwide.

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