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Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** presenting a souvenir to Yang di-Pertuan Agong **Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah** and Raja Permaisuri Agong **Tuanku Hajah Haminah** at **Istana Negara** yesterday. With them is Communications and Multimedia Minister **Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak** (left). Bernama pic

Govt thanks royal couple

NST- 11/12/2016

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday expressed his appreciation to Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah on behalf of the government and the people for His Majesty's excellent performance as head of state.

Najib said despite Tuanku Halim's state of health, the ruler was a high-spirited king and a great man.

"His Majesty was a very determined king and performed diligently as a constitutional monarch over the past five years," Najib said in his farewell speech at a state banquet to mark the end of Tuanku Halim's reign as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara here.

Gracing the occasion was Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah.

"On behalf of the government and the people, I would like to express

our greatest appreciation to Your Majesties for carrying out the duties as head of state and the constitutional monarchy as stipulated in the Federal Constitution," said Najib.

In his speech titled "Experienced and People's King", Najib said Tuanku Halim had carried out the role entrusted to him well, which had attracted praise and honour for the king and country.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Najib said he and the people were proud of having His Majesty as the people's king.

"His character and love for the people was clearly shown when His Majesty attended official functions and festivities. He has left an indelible mark on the people, regardless of their backgrounds."

He praised Tuanku Halim for always being punctual, and insisted that such traits should be emulated by the people.

"Tuanku has never been late for the 8am official morning meeting between him and me on Wednesdays before the cabinet meeting."

Najib expressed his appreciation to Tuanku Hajah Haminah, who always accompanied His Majesty at official functions.

Tuanku Halim will end his reign as head of state for the second time tomorrow.

He will be succeeded by Sultan of Kelantan Sultan Muhammad V as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Tuesday.

Tuanku Halim served as the fifth king from Sept 21, 1970, to Sept 20, 1975.

His term as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong began on Dec 13, 2011.