

# Najib explains no-show at palace

**> Ex-PM says last-minute seating change forced him to miss King's installation**

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**PETALING JAYA:** Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak did not get to witness the installation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong up close on Tuesday thanks to a last-minute change of seating position.

He was originally allocated a seat among former prime ministers but, according to him, he was informed just a few hours prior to the installation ceremony that he would be sitting with the Pahang nobility instead.

"I received a call at 6.30am that my seat had been changed," he said on his Facebook page yesterday.

He said his new seating position required him to be in the formal dress of the Orang Besar Pahang but it was too late for him to return to Pekan to collect the attire.

Najib holds the Orang Kaya Indera Shah, Bandar title that was accorded by the Pahang palace. He inherited it from his late father Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, making him the 11th person to hold the title.

The Prime Minister's Office has denied any role in changing Najib's seat, explaining that protocols were handled by the palace.

Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah was installed as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Tuesday in a ceremony steeped in royal customs and protocols at Istana Negara.

This is not the first time that a former prime minister has missed the installation of a king.

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who served as prime minister for the first time from 1981 to 2003, did not attend the installation of the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Muhammad V, on Dec 13, 2016.