

KING APPOINTS ISMAIL SABRI AS NINTH PM

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Bera MP has the support of 114 MPs, says Comptroller of Royal Household

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DATUK Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been appointed as Malaysia's ninth prime minister, Istana Negara announced yesterday.

The Comptroller of the Royal Household Datuk Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin, in a statement, said

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah had determined that the Bera member of parliament had garnered 114 nominations from MPs, giving him a sufficient majority.

All 220 MPs had been asked to name a prime ministerial candidate via statutory declarations, which were later verified by the king.

"From the SDs, 114 MPs nominated Ismail Sabri. His Majesty has given assent to an audience for the 114 MPs yesterday (Thursday) to verify their support for the MP they have nominated as prime minister.

"Therefore, His Majesty has appointed Ismail Sabri as prime minister in accordance with Article 40(2)(a) and Article 43(2)(a)

of the Federal Constitution."

Ahmad Fadil said the swearing-in ceremony will be held at 2.30pm today at Istana Negara.

The Malay rulers had earlier yesterday afternoon convened for a special meeting presided by the king to discuss the country's current political affairs, in particular the appointment of Malaysia's ninth prime minister.

On Thursday, Umno and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia MPs, including caretaker prime minister and Perikatan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, were among those granted an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to verify their candidate for prime minister.

Ismail Sabri was reported to have received the support of MPs from Umno, Bersatu, Parti Sol-