

King hopes Anwar will be last PM under his reign

KUALA LUMPUR: The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah has expressed hope that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will be the last leader to be appointed as Malaysia's prime minister during his reign.

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> Since assuming office on Jan 31, 2019, he has shouldered heavy responsibilities to select and appoint four different prime ministers, says Al-Sultan Abdullah

Mahathir Mohamad, followed by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Anwar.

"Until today, I have gone through various events and experiences that are difficult for me to forget.

"It has been written in the country's history that I am the only Yang di-Pertuan Agong who has been given good health to rule the country with four different prime ministers and Cabinet line-ups.

"I hope that the 10th prime minister is the last one for me before I return to Pahang Darul Makmur," he said at the opening ceremony of the first meeting of the second session of the 15th Parliament yesterday.

The King added that he had no intention of interfering in the country's political affairs or arranging the political landscape.

Al-Sultan Abdullah said he believed that if the episodes leading to the resignation of the seventh prime minister did not happen, the continuous political turmoil which led to the 15th general election could have been avoided.

"Most importantly, the political crisis that went on for almost four years could have been avoided if MPs and politicians were ready to put aside their differences and stand united on the basis of protecting the interests of my subjects and our beloved country."

Al-Sultan Abdullah said that if diversity and political issues continue to cause conflicts and division, he fears that the desired peace and progress will not become a reality, Bernama reported.

The King also expressed hope that they would put aside narrow political agendas and join hands for the sake of unity because political stability should be a means to shape the nation for a glorious new era of Malaysia.

"On Jan 30, 2024, I will end my reign as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, which means this is my last time to grace Parliament's official opening and speak in this august hall," the King said.



The Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah having a light moment with Anwar after the opening ceremony yesterday. - *BERNAMAPIC*