

First installation at new Istana
TheStarOnline
April 11, 2012
By JOSEPH SIPALAN

IT will be a majestic day of firsts. Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah will not only become the first Ruler installed as Yang di-Pertuan Agong for the second time, he will also be the first monarch to be installed at the spanking new Istana Negara in Jalan Duta.

Tuanku Abdul Halim's installation as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong will be a grand event at the new palace which was recently completed.

It will be an event steeped in rituals and protocol with a "who's who" of Malaysian royalty and dignitaries expected to be in attendance.

The new palace, built over a sprawling 104ha, looks set for its day in history.

The sprawling new palace houses two levels and is roofed with 22 domes in total the main dome peaking at 60m from the ground as a symbol of the unrivalled standing of the King and the Raja Permaisuri Agong in Malaysian society.

From the gate to the main structure, the new palace was designed to exude the regal uniqueness of the country's constitutional monarchy, the position of Islam as the religion of State and other aspects that define the nation's identity.

The three gates leading into the palace grounds are decorated with an eclectic design made up of the Bunga Raya, which is the national flower, and Islamic motifs.

Palace guards from the First Malay Regiment are stationed at the main entrance facing Jalan Duta, which is reserved for the royal First Couple, Malay Rulers and their consorts, governors, and visiting heads of state and government.

Royal guests are required to use the second gate from Jalan Changkat Semantan while commoners enter the palace from the third gate at Jalan Sri Hartamas.

The installation ceremony itself will be held at the *Balairong Seri* hall in the palace's official wing which can accommodate up to 1,000 people at any one time.

The ceremony will also give invited guests the rare opportunity to see other parts of the palace including the *Seri Maharaja* hall, and for the most privileged, the throne room at *Bilik Singgahsana*.

As with the installation of the 13 previous Kings, the ceremony will be guided by an itinerary that has been implemented and used from the time of the country's Independence.

In line with the King's position as Commander of the Armed Forces, the ceremony will begin with an inspection of the Royal Guard, after which the King and Queen will be escorted into the palace where the installation will proceed in stages.

Once the King completes the recitation of his oath in office, 21 cannons will fire and the national anthem will be played.

The ceremony will culminate with a royal address by the newly-installed King.

Copyright © 1995-2012 Star Publications (M) Bhd

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/4/11/nation/11061644&sec=nation>