

**A Historic Installation For The 14th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Kedah, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, creates history on being installed the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for the second time Wednesday.

It has never happened in the country's history that a Sultan or a King was reappointed as the Head of State ever since the rotation system among the nine Sultans or King began when Malaysia achieved its independence in 1957.

Tuanku Abdul Halim was installed as the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1970 at the age of 42, and now, four decades later, he will be installed again at the age of 84, as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Adding to the uniqueness of the installation ceremony this time around is Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. When Tuanku Abdul Halim was installed as the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the prime minister at that time was Najib's father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, the Second Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The installation ceremony tomorrow will also be a historic occasion as this will be the first such ceremony to be held at the new Istana Negara (National Palace) in Jalan Duta.

The installation ceremony tomorrow marks the official commencement of Tuanku Abdul Halim's reign as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong and will be an occasion steeped in royal tradition.

It will begin at the Balairong Seri (Throne Hall) of Istana Negara at 10am and will be aired live on Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) channels.

Based on the full dress rehearsal observed yesterday at Istana Negara, the installation ceremony will start with the blowing of the nafiri (trumpet) and the striking of the nobat (drum) to the tune of "Belayar" by the Kedah Royal Nobat Group as Tuanku Abdul Halim and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah make their entrance into the Balairong Seri.

The ceremony will be attended by the Malay Rulers, Yang Dipertuas Negeri, the Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, menteri besar and chief ministers, members of His Majesty's royal court, heads of foreign missions as well as guests-of-honour from the country and from abroad.

Later on, Grand Chamberlain Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela Azwan Effendy Zairakithnaini will lead a Royal Arrival Procession followed by the Royal Regalia and Mace Holders, bearing the Cogan Alam (Mace of the Universe) and the Cogan Agama (Mace of Religion).

Both maces, which are made of silver, are part of the royal regalia.

Tuanku Abdul Halim will wear the official dress of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, called the Muskat, which is made of black wool and embroidered with gold threads. The dress is worn with the "Dendam Tak Sudah" headgear or "tengkolok", and embroidered long pants.

His Majesty will also wear the Royal Buckle or the "Pending Diraja" which is made of gold and decorated with rubies, with an engraved centrepiece featuring the Federation Crest, while the belt is made of heavy ribbed silk and embroidered with floral motifs in gold thread.

Other regalia is the Keris Pendek Diraja which was forged from the blades of antique keris. The hilt and sheath are made of ivory embedded with gold. The hilt is called "Hulu Pekaka" and in the shape of the head of a "Garuda".

Her Majesty Tuanku Hajah Haminah will wear the official dress of the Raja Permaisuri Agong which consists of a long dress, the "Gandik Diraja" or Royal Tiara and the "Kalung Diraja" or the Royal Necklace, both of which are made of platinum and studded with diamonds.

The ceremony will proceed with the entrance of the Second Group of Bearers and Quran Entrustment, with Datuk Pengelola Bijaya Diraja Datuk Awang Kechik Abdul Rahman bearing a copy of the Al-Quran, while the Keris Panjang Diraja as well as the Proclamation of Enthronement and Installation, and the Oath of Installation, will be brought in by Istana Negara officials, accompanied by the striking of the nobat.

The Al-Quran, the symbol of the sanctity of Islam as the official religion, will then be presented to His Majesty by the Grand Chamberlain.

His Majesty will then kiss it and place it on a rehal or Quran stand on a table placed in front of the Sovereigns' thrones.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will then formally proclaim the enthronement of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, followed by the presentation of the Keris Panjang Diraja or the Keris of the Government to His Majesty who will then draw the keris, kiss it, and return it to its scabbard.

His Majesty will then take his Oath of Installation, pledging among other things to perform his duties in accordance with the laws and constitution, and to protect Islam at all times.

This will be followed by the blowing of the nafiri, and three shouts of "Daulat Tuanku" by the Grand Chamberlain and others in the Balairong Seri.

Moments later, a 21-gun salute will be fired, followed by the playing of the national anthem "Negaraku".

The prime minister, representing the government and the people, will then congratulate His Majesty and pledge loyalty to the newly installed Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

His Majesty will then deliver the Royal Address.

Tuanku Abdul Halim was elected the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the 226th Meeting of the Conference of Rulers on Oct 14 last year, succeeding Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu.

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