

**Agong Attends Investiture Ceremony
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 1 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Saturday attended the investiture ceremony in conjunction with his official birthday celebration.

The ceremony is held for the second time at the new Istana Negara at Jalan Duta here. This year, there are 1,574 recipients of the awards and medals.

Earlier, Tuanku Abdul Halim and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah attended the ceremony to inspect the guard of honour. They were accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Tuanku Abdul Halim was installed as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong in a ceremony steeped in tradition at the Istana Negara in April last year.

The ceremony then marked two historical significance for the country as well as for Tuanku Abdul Halim. Firstly, it was the second time that His Majesty was installed as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the first was as the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1970 at the age of 42.

Four decades later, Tuanku Abdul Halim was again installed to the position, as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong under a system of rotation among the nine Malay Rulers practised since independence in 1957.

At today's investiture ceremony, the national anthem "Negaraku" was played soon after the arrival of Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah at the Balai Rong Seri.

The ceremony began with the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak presenting the congratulatory speech on behalf of the Malaysian government and the people and then by the Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Norodom Arunrasmy, who is Cambodian Ambassador in Malaysia, on behalf of the diplomatic corps in Malaysia.

This was then followed with the royal address by the Agong, who then presented awards to 43 recipients.

The presentation of the awards started with the conferment of the Darjah Panglima Seri Mahkota (PSM), which carries the title 'Tan Sri', on Tuanku Laksamana of Kedah Tuanku Abdul Hamid Thani Sultan Badlishah (Kedah Regency Council member).

This was then followed by the Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Dr Ali Hamsa with the Darjah Panglima Mangku Negara (PMN), which carries the title "Tan Sri".

A total of 45 people were conferred the Darjah Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM), which also carries the title "Tan Sri".

They included former Information Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, former Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Peter Chin Fah Kui, Public Service Director-General Datuk Mohamad Zabidi Zainal, Treasury secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah and head of the Implementation Coordination Unit under the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Shukry Mohd Salleh.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Datuk Seri Abu Kassim Mohamed, chief private secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Datuk Seri Ab Aziz Kasim, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Ir Dr Sahol and Datuk Michelle Yeoh Choo-Kheng were also awarded the PSM.

Apart from that, 59 people were awarded the Darjah Panglima Jasa Negara (PJN), which carries the title "Datuk".

The recipients included Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Madinah Mohamad, Tourism Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Ong Hong Peng, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry secretary-general Datuk Che Mohd Hashim Abdullah, Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Datuk Gulam Hussin Gulam Haniff and international fashion designer Zang Toi.

Six other people were awarded the Darjah Panglima Setia Diraja (PSD), which also carries the title "Datuk" and they included special officer to the prime minister, Prof Dr Datuk Khairil Annas Jusoh and head of Protocol at the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry Datuk Naimun Ashakli Mohammad.

The ceremony ended with the reading of the "doa" by Federal Territory Mufti Datuk Wan Zahidi Wan Teh before the recipients joined the royal couple for tea.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong's birthday is celebrated on the first Saturday of June every year, and this year it falls on June 1.

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