

Istana Negara Prepares For 15th Yang Di-pertuan Agong Installation Ceremony

By Sh Nur Shahrizad Sy Mohamed Sharer

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 -- Tomorrow on April 24, 2017, Malaysians will once again witness the historic event of the installation of the Supreme Head of the country when the Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Muhammad V, ascends the throne as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, replacing Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu 'adzam Shah.

This is the second time the installation ceremony of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong will take place at the Balairung Seri of Istana Negara in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim, and meticulous preparations at the main venue of the event which have been ongoing for the past six months, have entered the final phase.

Although there are no major changes, the palace has been beautifully decorated with landscaping and colourful lights which highlight its august stature as the landmark of the constitutional monarchy system practised in Malaysia.

In conjunction with the ceremony, posters and banners with the images of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong who will head the country for the next five years have also been installed at strategic locations in the city leading to Istana Negara.

The ceremony full of customs and traditions will mark the official installation of Sultan Muhammad V as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of the country.

According to Penolong Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela, Ceremonial Division, at the Istana Negara, Azuan Effendy Zairakithnaini the coronation date coincided with an important day in the Islamic calendar, the Isra' and Mi raj (Night Journey and Ascension of Prophet Muhammad), and it was chosen by the King based on advice from ulamas and muftis.

The event which is only expected to be witnessed once in five years, is scheduled to begin at 9.30am tomorrow, and will be broadcast live on Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM).

Sultan Muhammad V had previously taken the oath of office and signed the declaration on Dec 13, 2016 which strengthened and gave legitimacy to the position of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as head of state.

This will be the second time a sultan from Kelantan is installed as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong after His Majesty's grandfather, Sultan Yahya Petra Sultan Ibrahim was crowned as the 6th Yang di-Pertuan Agong and ruled from September 21, 1975 until March 29, 1979.

Sultan Muhammad V was born as Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra on Oct 6, 1969 at Istana Batu, Kota Bharu, Kelantan, and is the eldest son of Sultan Ismail Petra and Tengku Anis Tengku Abdul Hamid.

He began using the title Sultan Muhammad V after being proclaimed the 29th Sultan of Kelantan on Sept 13, 2010.

According to Azuan Effendy, the installation ceremony will maintain the core elements of the traditions that have been in practice since the coronation of the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Rahman of Negeri Sembilan.

The event tomorrow will commence upon the arrival of Sultan Muhammad V at the royal dais to take the Royal Salute from the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment, symbolising the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) loyalty to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as the supreme commander of the armed forces.

Among key elements of the ceremony will be when His Majesty enters the Throne Room, accompanied with the musical tunes of "Raja Berangkat" played by Pasukan Gendang Besar Diraja Kelantan, commanders who will carry the Cogan Alam (Scepture of the Universe)

and Cogan Agama (Scepture of Religion) and bearers of the royal regalia important elements that reflect the glorious position of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as head of state.

During the installation ceremony, the Datuk Paduka Maharajalela will present a copy of the Quran to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in a symbolic gesture depicting the role of the Agong as head of the Islamic religion of the Federation and the states that do not have a ruler.

Another highlight of the event will be when the Royal Long Keris, also known as the Government Keris is presented to the King, symbolising the fact that the King is willing to assume his role as head of state, and called the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The climax of the ceremony is when the King takes oath as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and three calls of "Daulat Tuanku" by Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela which will be followed suit by the audience in the hall.

At the same time, the national anthem will be played with a 21-gun salute to announce the installation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Sultan Muhammad V was selected as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, replacing Tuanku Abdul Halim, who ended his tenure on Dec 12 last year.

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