

Istana Negara refutes allegation King delayed appointment of Mahathir as PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- Istana Negara has strongly refuted any allegation that Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Muhammad V delayed the appointment of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister.

Comptroller of the Royal Household Datuk Wan Ahmad Dahlan Ab Aziz said the King had faithfully carried out his duties and functions in accordance with the Federal Constitution in appointing Dr Mahathir as the prime minister.

"His Majesty the King strongly supports and respects the democratic process and the wishes of his subjects," he said in a statement tonight.

According to Wan Ahmad Dahlan, Istana Negara received the official results of the 14th General Election from the Election Commission at 2.45 pm today.

He said Istana Negara also received a letter from the component members of Pakatan Harapan at 1.38 pm today supporting the appointment of Dr Mahathir as Malaysia's seventh prime minister.

He said the King, after verifying the documents, met with Pakatan Harapan key leaders Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Lim Guan Eng and Mohamad Sabu at 5 pm at Istana Negara.

"His Majesty, after having interviewed them and listened to their views, decided to invite Tun Dr Mahathir to form the next Federal Government pursuant to Article 43 (2a) of the Federal Constitution," he said.

His Majesty then consented to have Dr Mahathir sworn in as the Prime Minister at 9.30 pm today.

Wan Ahmad Dahlan said Sultan Muhammad V looked forward to working with Dr Mahathir and his administration for the betterment of the nation and all its people.

Dr Mahathir told a press conference today that Pakatan Harapan had secured the support of 135 MPs, including from Parti Warisan Sabah, to be eligible to form the new government. A total of 222 parliamentary seats were contested in the 14th general election yesterday.

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