

Kedah launches ceremonies for installation of 29th Sultan

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ALOR SETAR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The 'Istiadat Letak Kerja' ceremony was held today, initiating the launch of ceremonies for the installation of Sultan Sallehuddin ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah as the 29th Sultan of Kedah on Oct 22.

The 'Istiadat Letak Kerja', held at the Balai Besar in the full tradition and custom of the Kedah Malay Sultanate, signified the consent of the Sultan of Kedah initiating the installation of His Royal Highness.

The song, 'Allah Selamat Sultan', reverberated in the Balai Besar soon after the arrival of Sultan Sallehuddin and the Sultanah of Kedah, Sultanah Maliha Almarhum Tengku Ariff.

The Tunku Laksamana of Kedah, Datuk Tunku Shazuddin Arif Ibni Sultan Sallehuddin; Tunku Temenggong of Kedah, Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah; Tunku Bendahara of Kedah, Tan Sri Tunku Abdul Hamid Thani Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, and Toh Puan Bendahara of Kedah, Datin Seri Diraja Puan Sri Datuk Nora Abdullah; Raja Muda of Kedah, Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah Ibni Sultan Sallehuddin, and his consort, Che Puan Muda Zaheeda, were in attendance.

Also present were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Mahathir and his wife, Tok Puan Norzieta Zakaria, and other state government leaders.

Then, Datuk Bijaya Indera, Datuk Paduka Syed Unan Mashri Syed Abdullah, sought the consent of the Sultan to begin the 'Istiadat Letak Kerja' ceremony which started with the bearing of spring water from the 12 districts of Kedah and the 'zam zam' water in a procession led by the district officers and the Datuk Bandar (Mayor) of the Alor Setar City Council, Datuk Mohd Zohdi Saad.

The spring water was brought in procession in silver containers. The water had been carefully collected from springs in the districts of Kota Setar, Kuala Muda, Kulim, Kubang Pasu, Baling, Sik, Padang Terap, Langkawi, Yan, Bandar Baharu, Pendang and Pokok Sena. Then came the bearer of a golden container containing the 'zam zam' water.

The spring water had been collected from historic and clean sources, such as those in Gunung Keriang; Tupah Waterfall in Kuala Muda; Sungai Sedim in Kulim; Gunung Inas in Baling and Lata Embun in Sik.

Then came the bearers of nine types of flowers, namely Cempaka Kuning; Melur; Kesidang; Melati; Kenanga; Lili; Mawar Kuning; Kekwa and Harum Malam. These bearers comprised women members of the Royal Household.

At the tail-end of the procession were three penghulus, each of whom carried a tray containing, respectively, the 'sintok' bark; lime and incense.

The spring water, flowers, and the sintok bark, lime and incense will be used during the 'Istiadat Siram Tabal' (royal bathing ceremony) scheduled to be held at Istana Anak Bukit on Oct 14.

After the bearers of the various items had taken their respective places, the Sultan read out from a scroll presented by the Private Secretary to the Sultan of Kedah, Col (K) Datuk Elmi Yusoff, the declaration initiating the 'Istiadat Letak Kerja'.

Mukhriz received the Instrument of Declaration of the 'Istiadat Letak Kerja' from the Sultan, signifying the beginning of the Installation process.

Then a nine-gun salute was fired as the 'nobat' ensemble began playing.

The first shot of the cannon was fired as Mukhriz received the Instrument of Declaration,

and the nobat played the 'Raja Bertabal' song till the end. The second to eighth shots were fired as the nobat continued playing, and the ninth shot was fired after the nobat had completed playing.

Then, the Mufti of Kedah, Datuk Syeikh Fadzil Awang, said the 'doa' (prayers) after which the song 'Allah Selamat Sultan' was played.

The Installation of the 29th Sultan of Kedah comprises several ceremonies. It begins with the 'Istiadat Letak Kerja'. Then come the 'Istiadat Ziarah Makam' (visit to the graves) on Oct 5; 'Istiadat Siram Tabal' (royal bathing ceremony) on Oct 14; 'Istiadat Perarakan' (royal parade) on Oct 20 and 'Istiadat Pertabalan Sultan Kedah' (Installation of the Sultan of Kedah) on Oct 22.

Sultan Sallehuddin was proclaimed as the 29th Sultan of Kedah on Sept 12, 2017, to succeed Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah who passed away the previous day.

Sultan Sallehuddin was born on April 30, 1942. His Royal Highness and Sultanah Maliha have two princes, Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah and Datuk Tunku Shazuddin Ariff.

The Sultan is the ninth of the 14 children of Sultan Badlishah Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah who reigned from 1943 to 1958.

Kedah last witnessed the installation of a sultan 59 years ago, in 1959, when the late Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, was enthroned.

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