

King performs Friday prayers with PM, cabinet ministers

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 15 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah today performed Friday prayers with Muslim Cabinet members at the Surau Istana Negara here today.

His Majesty arrived at the Surau at 1.20 pm, accompanied by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Mujahid Yusof.

Among the Cabinet ministers in attendance were Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman.

Also present were Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Bakar, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun and a number of heads of government departments and agencies.

The Friday sermon titled *Mahalnya Sebuah Keamanan* (The High Cost of Peace) was delivered by the Grand Imam of the National Mosque, Tan Sri Syaikh Ismail Muhammad, who also led the Friday prayers.

In the sermon, Syaikh Ismail said Malaysia was lucky to have been able to maintain peace and harmony compared to other countries facing conflicts and war.

"It was not easy for us to achieve this. Peace is a very valuable blessing everyone is wishing

for," he said.

The Grand Imam also reminded the congregation, and the public as a whole, to use the social media in a responsible manner so as not to create tension or chaos, let alone to spread hatred among each other.

He also led a prayer for those affected by the chemical pollution in Pasir Gudang, Johor, to recover quickly and for the air quality in the area to return to normal soon.

After the prayer, Sultan Abdullah proceeded to a luncheon together with the congregation, which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

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