

Daulat Tuanku, Sultan Abdullah sworn in as the new King

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) – Malaysians today witnessed the swearing-in of one of the country's Malay Rulers as the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong in a traditional ceremony and system of monarchy unique in the world.

The Sultan of Pahang, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, 59, took the oath of office as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara to reign for a five-year term.

The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah, 62, took the oath of office as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, at the same ceremony that was witnessed by all the other Malay Rulers, their representatives, Yang Dipertuas Negeri, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers, among others.

In taking the oath of office, Sultan Abdullah pledged to reign justly and safeguard at all times the sanctity of Islam, peace and the well-being of the people.

The duties and roles of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, as the Supreme Head of the Federation, cover the executive, legislative and judiciary.

Sultan Abdullah and Sultan Nazrin were elected to their respective offices by the Malay Rulers at the 251st (Special) Meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara on Jan 24 following the unprecedented resignation of the Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Muhammad V, as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Jan 6.

The consensus and harmony highly cherished by the Malay Rulers provided for the election of Sultan Abdullah and Sultan Nazrin to the respective offices in a short time.

The last time that the royal standard of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was hoisted in Pahang was in 1979 when Sultan Abdullah's father, Paduka Ayahanda Sultan Ahmad Shah Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar, was elected as the seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong to reign from April 26, 1979, to April 25, 1984.

Sultan Abdullah and his consort, Tunku Azizah Maimunah Iskandariah Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, who is now Raja Permaisuri Agong, were given a rousing send-off at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Kuantan today with shouts of 'Allahu Akbar' (God is Great) and 'Daulat Tuanku' (Long Live the Ruler) from the large crowd of people who had taken advantage of the Pahang occasional public holiday today to turn up in droves.

Their Majesties were accompanied on their journey from Istana Abdulaziz in Kuantan to Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur today with an abundance of the prayers and well-wishes of the people.

Resplendent in their traditional attire, Their Majesties smiled as they waved to the people of Pahang, comprising people from all walks of life, age groups and communities, all wishing the best for their beloved Ruler and his consort.

Sultan Abdullah, who had said during his proclamation as the Sultan of Pahang on Jan 15 that the Ruler and people are inseparable, set aside protocol as he was about to enter the special aircraft by blowing a flying kiss to the people.

After arriving at the Bunga Raya Complex of the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang, Their Majesties proceeded to Parliament Square for the welcome ceremony and then to Istana Negara for the swearing-in.

In a ceremony carried live over radio and television, Sultan Abdullah was proclaimed as the Supreme Head of State by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the presence of the Malay Rulers of Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, Perlis, Terengganu, Kedah and Johor and the

Tengku Mahkota of Kelantan and Regent of Pahang.

Also present were the Yang Dipertuas Negeri of Melaka, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak as well as dignitaries from the executive, legislative and judiciary.

The Mufti of Sabah, Datuk Bungsu @ Aziz Jaafar, recited the 'doa' (prayers), seeking the blessings of the Almighty to be showered on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, other members of the royalty, the leaders, people and nation.

The new Yang di-Pertuan Agong also granted an audience for the introduction of several dignitaries, among whom were Chief Justice Tan Sri Richard Malanjum; Syariah Chief Judge Datuk Mukhyuddin Ibrahim; Attorney-General Tommy Thomas; Chief of Defence Forces Tan Sri Zulkifli Zainal Abidin; Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun; Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof; Dewan Negara President Tan Sri S. Vigneswaran and Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Bakar.

Dirgahayu Tuanku (Long Live Your Majesty).

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