

Kedah Sultan installed as King

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Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah begins his second reign

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sultan of Kedah, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, has been installed as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong in a ceremony steeped in royal tradition at the new Istana Negara here.

The 84-year-old monarch took the Oath of Installation in the Balai Rong Seri or Throne Hall to mark the formal commencement of his reign as the Supreme Head of the Federation.

The *nafiri* (trumpets) were blown and the *nobat* (drums) beaten to the tune of *Perang*, followed by three shouts of "Daulat Tuanku (Hail to the King)" led by the acting Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela (Grand Chamberlain) Azwan Effendy Zairakithnaini.

A 21-gun salute was fired and the Royal Malaysian Air Force band, led by Lt Sabri Abdullah, played the *Negara Ku*.

According to Bernama, the 900-odd guests at the installation, which was telecast live over RTM, included the Malay Rulers and their consorts, the Yang di-Pertuan Negri, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his Cabinet and foreign diplomats.

This is the second reign of Tuanku Abdul Halim. He was installed as the fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1970 at the age of 42. Tun Abdul Razak, the father of Najib, was then Prime Minister.

The acting Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela and carriers of the royal regalia led the procession to the Balai Rong Seri.

As Tuanku Abdul Halim and Raja

Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah entered the hall, the Kedah Royal Nobat Group played *Belayar*.

The royal regalia include the Cogan Alam (Mace of the Universe) and the Cogan Agama (Mace of Religion) which are made of silver and are also the national insignia.

Tuanku Abdul Halim was attired in the official dress of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong called the Muskat, which is made of black wool and embroidered with gold threads. His pants were similarly embroidered and he had on the "Dendam Tak Sudah" headgear or "tengkolok".

Her Majesty wore the official attire of the Raja Permaisuri Agong, which consists of the Royal Tiara and the Royal Necklace, both of which are made of platinum and studded with diamonds.

After Their Majesties were seated, the acting Grand Chamberlain presented a Quran to Tuanku Abdul Halim, who kissed it and placed it on a stand.

Najib then proclaimed the enthronement of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The acting Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela presented the Keris Panjang di-Raja to His Majesty, who drew out the long dagger, kissed it and returned it to its scabbard.

He placed it on the table next to the Quran.

The King then took his Oath of Installation, pledging to perform his duties in accordance with the law and Constitution, and to protect



Daulat Tuanku: Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah leaving the Balai Rong Seri after the installation ceremony at Istana Negara yesterday. — Bernama

Islam at all times.

The Prime Minister, representing the Government and the people, congratulated His Majesty and pledged loyalty to him.

The King then delivered his Royal Address.

The ceremony ended with the reciting of prayers by Istana Negara religious officer Datuk Abd Aziz Che Yacob.

The *nobat* band played *Belayar* as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong left the Balai Rong Seri.

Tuanku Abdul Halim was elected the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the 226th meeting of the Conference of Rulers on Oct 14 last year, succeeding Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu.

Later, a royal banquet was held in

conjunction with the installation.

The King and Tuanku Hajah Haminah arrived at the Istana Negara banquet hall at about 9pm, followed by the rest of the Malay Rulers.

Among the guests were Najib, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Cabinet ministers, foreign ambassadors and senior government officials.

Malaysians entering new era

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Najib: Govt rescinded three emergency proclamations to give more freedom

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Government rescinded three emergency proclamations because it is confident Malaysians are ready to enter a new era.

"The Government believes that after more than half a century of practising democracy since Independence, Malaysians have reached a high level of maturity.

"In view of this, we are now ready to enter a new era where the function of Government is no longer seen as limiting freedom of the individual but, instead, of ensuring that the basic rights as enshrined in the Constitution are protected," he said at the installation of Sultan of Kedah Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara here yesterday.

Najib said that after giving due consideration, the Government believed that a balance could be reached between freedom of the individual and national security.

In line with this aspiration, the Government, through Parliament, had rescinded the three emergency proclamations and would allow all the ordinances under them to lapse in June, except for three that would be tabled as new Bills.

The three are related to Rela, Pahang, Terengganu and...



Historic day:

The Sultan of Pahang and his consort, Sultan of Perak and his consort, Sultan of Selangor, Sultan of Johor, other royalty and dignitaries arriving for the King's installation at Istana Negara yesterday. — Bernama

Rukun Tetangga and regional maritime laws.

The Prime Minister said the Government had also taken steps to repeal the Restricted Residence Act 1933 and Banishment Act 1959, formulated the Peaceful Assembly Act 2011 and amended the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971.

Najib said he would be tabling for second reading the Bill to abolish the Internal Security Act, on Monday.

"Although the ISA has served the nation well, it has outlived its purpose. We need a new framework of national security legislation in the increasingly complex contemporary era," he said.

Under the new law, he said the Home Minister no longer had the power to detain without trial while detention for the purpose of investigations was shortened.

"The power of judicial review will be fully returned to the courts. The

All these initiatives and programmes are to ensure that Tuanku's rule, God willing, will herald a golden democratic age in Malaysia.

— DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

Bill also guarantees that no Malaysian can be detained because of his political beliefs and activities," he added.

Najib said the Security Offences Bill (Special Measures) 2011, which was tabled for first reading in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday, would ensure that the authorities had adequate legal weaponry not only to combat global terrorism and defend

parliamentary democracy in Malaysia, but also protect the freedom of the citizens.

"All these initiatives and programmes are to ensure that Tuanku's rule, God willing, will herald a golden democratic age in Malaysia," Najib said.

He added that he and his family were fortunate and privileged to serve Tuanku Abdul Halim as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong as his (Najib's) father, the country's second Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, had served His Majesty when he ascended the throne the first time in 1970.

"After my late father had the opportunity to serve Tuanku, it is now destined to be my turn to be at your service. It is God's will, and may God's assistance and *inayah* (concern) guide all of us," Najib said. — Bernama



Loyal servant: Najib delivering his speech during Tuanku Abdul Halim's installation as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong yesterday. — Bernama

Proud day for Kedahans

Installation of Tuanku Abdul Halim as King a special moment for many



Grand entrance: (Clockwise from left) Members of the Mounted Ceremonial Squadron entering Istana Negara; outriders leading the King's car into the palace; and a Japanese tourist and her daughter waving at the royal convoy as they arrive at the palace for the installation.

ALOR SETAR: Forty-two years ago, Rosmawati Abu Bakar was an excited little girl who watched the Sultan, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, ascending the throne as King.

"My parents only had a black and white TV then. I was just a school-girl but I remember the event very clearly," said Rosmawati, 49.

The factory manager said she felt privileged to witness the occasion again yesterday.

"It is just as exciting now," said Rosmawati.

Yesterday, she found the event even "grander" as she viewed it in colour with her daughter Diana Daud, 20.



Lucky Kedahans: Rosmawati and Fudzil among those who witnessed the occasion yesterday.

She was among the Kedahans who beamed with pride as they watched the live telecast of Tuanku Abdul Halim's installation as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

They thronged coffee shops and *nasi kandar* restaurants to watch the historic occasion.

"I am very proud to be a Kedahan. I think this is a very special moment," said Universiti Utara Malaysia undergraduate Endry Lim Zhen Wen, 24, when met at a *dim sum* shop.

For Fudzil Yaacob, 42, a soldier based at the Sultan Abdul Halim Camp in Jitra, it was an opportunity for him to bring his family to town to celebrate the historic event.

"The army camp where I am stationed is named after the Sultan so there is a special connection there," he said, adding that his wife Mashita Mohamad, 42, and daughter Nurul

Nadhirah Fudzil, 13, shared his exuberance.

Universiti Teknologi Mara lecturer Isma Ismail, 32, who watched the live telecast with her parents and cousin, said the installation was a meaningful chapter in Malaysian history.

"The Sultan is very close to the people and very down to earth. I still remember an instance when he walked to the Batu Kawan Stadium in Penang to watch a football match as the road was too jammed for his car to pass through."

Isma's mother Kama Dun, 59, said that the first installation was just as grand.

NS Ruler is elected

In the article "A unique monarchy system" (page 20 of StarSpecial yesterday), it was erroneously stated that the nine regional chiefs in Negri Sembilan have "taken turns to be Yang di-Pertuan Besar".

In fact, the first three Yang di-Pertuan Besar were invited from the Pagar Ruyong dynasty in Sumatra and subsequent Rulers have been elected from the royal family by the four Undang (senior regional chiefs) of the state.

We apologise for this error.