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ANNOUNCEMENT

KING RESIGNS

First time in Malaysian history a king has stepped down

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SULTAN Muhammad V has resigned as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong effective yesterday.

This marks the first time in Malaysian history that a sitting king has stepped down from the throne.

Comptroller of the Royal Household Datuk Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz, in a statement, said the king officially notified the Malay rulers about the

move through a letter to the Secretary of the Conference of Rulers.

"In discharging the wishes of His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Muhammad V, Istana Negara hereby announces that His Majesty is stepping down as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong effective Jan 6, 2019, pursuant to Article 32(3) of the Federal Constitution," he said.

"Throughout his tenure as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, his Royal Highness had strived to fulfil his responsibilities and the trust placed in him as the head of state, serving as the pillar of stability, a source of justice and as the basis of unity and uniting factor for the people.

"The king would like to offer his thanks to all rulers for selecting him as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, beginning Dec 13, 2016," the statement read.

It said Sultan Muhammad V expressed his gratitude to the prime minister and the government for rendering their cooperation while governing the nation.

According to the statement, the king, as the supreme commander of the armed forces, said he was proud of the sacrifices and loyalty shown to him and the country over the years.

"To the people of Malaysia, His Royal Highness calls for continued unity, tolerance and to work together in shouldering their responsibilities to the country and ensure that Malaysia remains peaceful and harmonious."

The statement said the king would return to Kelantan to be with the state government, and especially, its people, to safeguard and develop the state.

Sultan Muhammad V was installed as Yang di-Pertuan Agong on April 24, 2017, after taking his oath of office on Dec 13, 2016. He



The front page of the 'New Straits Times' on Friday about an unscheduled meeting of the rulers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SULTAN MUHAMMAD V'S REIGN

Apr 21, 2017

■ COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Pos Malaysia Bhd unveils commemorative stamp to mark installation of Sultan Muhammad V as the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The stamp, named 'The King as the Head of the Nation', displays the image of Sultan Muhammad V in an official black dress. Surrounding the image is an elegant pattern in gold ink printing.

YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG XV

NAME: Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra

DATE OF BIRTH: Oct 6, 1969 | **AGE:** 49

PLACE OF BIRTH: Kota Baru, Kelantan

FATHER: Sultan Ismail Petra

MOTHER: Tengku Anis Tengku Abdul Hamid

SIBLINGS: Tengku Muhammad Faiz Petra
Tengku Muhammad Fakhry Petra
Tengku Amalin A'ishah Putri

CROWN PRINCE OF KELANTAN PROCLAMATION: Oct 6, 1985

29TH SULTAN OF KELANTAN PROCLAMATION:
Sept 13, 2010, Official title — Sultan Muhammad V

YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG REIGN: Dec 13, 2016 — Jan 6, 2019

**YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG
INSTALLATION:** April 24, 2017

EDUCATION:

- Sekolah Sultan Ismail I
- Alice Smith International School
- St Cross College, Oxford (Diplomatic Studies)
- Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford (Islamic Studies)
- Deutsche Stiftung Internationale Entwicklung, Berlin
- European Business School, London

OTHER POSTS:

- Member, Kelantan Royal Council
- Commander of the 506 Territorial Army Regiment (Honorary - Brigadier-General)
- Chancellor, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan



was elected as Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the 243rd Special Meeting of the Conference of Rulers in October 2016, which also voted for Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah to be Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Sultan Muhammad V succeeded late Sultan of Kedah Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, whose term as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong ended on Dec 12, 2016.

Sultan Muhammad V went on a two-month leave for treatment last year, during which Sultan Nazrin assumed the duties of acting Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

During Sultan Muhammad V's absence, there were foreign media reports and photographs claiming that the king married a former Russian beauty queen in Moscow. There has been no official confirmation or denial of the marriage.

More recently, social media has been abuzz with fresh claims and adverse comments concerning Sultan Muhammad V, with no official reaction from the palace or other authorities.

A *New Straits Times* report on Jan 4 quoted sources as saying that a rare and unscheduled meeting among the state's rulers took place on Jan 2.

The sources declined to divulge details about what was discussed, only that it involved a "serious discussion" concerning the monarchy. **Additional reporting by Beatrice Nita Jay and Teoh Pei Ying**

May 8, 2017

■ **PURPLE BERET AND TRIMEDIA BADGE**
Sultan Muhammad V conferred Honorary Purple Beret and Trimedia badge in conjunction with his visit to the Royal Malaysian Navy Special Forces (Paskal) base in Lumut.

May 17, 2017

■ **REUNITES WITH LECTURER**
Sultan Muhammad V reunites with his former Geography lecturer Dr David Browning after the inauguration of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies by Prince Charles, who is patron of the centre.

Sept 15, 2017

■ **VISITS TAHFIZ SCHOOL**
Sultan Muhammad V visits Darul Quran Ittifaqiyah tahfiz school, where 21 students and two teachers were killed after being trapped on the third floor of the religious residential school hostel, which caught fire on Sept 14.

May 10, 2018

■ **PARDONS ANWAR IBRAHIM**
Sultan Muhammad V consents to an immediate royal pardon for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, following Pakatan Harapan's victory in the May 9 general election.

Jun 11, 2018

■ **DECREES SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS TO BE REDUCED**
Sultan Muhammad V decrees his salary and emoluments to be reduced by 10 per cent during his reign until 2021, over concerns involving the nation's debt and economic conditions.

Jun 17, 2018

■ **OFFICIATES FIRST POST-BN PARLIAMENT SITTING**
Sultan Muhammad V greets the Dewan Rakyat speaker, Dewan Negara president and members of both houses with "Yang Berhormat sekalian, sila duduk dan jangan lari." (Yang Berhormat, please take your seat and don't run.) He said this as he looked at opposition MPs during his royal address at the opening of the first session of the 14th Parliament.

Nov 2, 2018

■ **SEEKS TREATMENT**
Sultan Muhammad V goes on leave to seek treatment abroad for two months, and his duties were temporarily taken over by Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah.

Nov 23, 2018

■ **VIRAL PHOTOS OF MARRIAGE**
Photos of Sultan Muhammad V allegedly marrying former Russian beauty queen Oksana Voevodina at Barvikha Concert Hall in Moscow, Russia, go viral. No official statement has been issued on the matter.

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LIST OF YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG



Tuanku Abdul Rahman Tuanku Muhammad Negri Sembilan Aug 31, 1957- April 1, 1960	Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Sultan Alauddin Sulaiman Shah Selangor April 14, 1960- Sept 1, 1960	Tuanku Syed Putra Alhaj Syed Hassan Jamalullail Perlis Sept 21, 1960- Sept 20, 1965	Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah Sultan Zainal Abidin Terengganu Sept 21, 1965- Sept 20, 1970
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Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Kedah Sept 21, 1970- Sept 20, 1975	Sultan Yahya Petra Sultan Ibrahim Kelantan Sept 21, 1975- March 29, 1979	Sultan Ahmad Shah Sultan Abu Bakar Pahang April 26, 1979- April 25, 1984	Sultan Iskandar Sultan Ismail Johor April 26, 1984 April 25, 1989
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Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-lah Perak April 26, 1989 - April 25, 1994	Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman Negri Sembilan April 26, 1994 - April 25, 1999	Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj Selangor April 26, 1999 - Nov 21, 2001	Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail Perlis Dec 13, 2001- Dec 12, 2006
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Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah	Sultan Mu'adzam Shah Kedah Dec 13, 2011 -
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The main gate of Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur. The palace yesterday issued a statement saying that Sultan Muhammad V had stepped down as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong. FILE PIC

UNPRECEDENTED

'INTRICATE RULES' ON SUCCESSION

Sultan Muhammad V
Kelantan
Dec 13, 2016 - Jan 6, 2019



INFOGRAPHIC NST

Kelantan govt accepts ruler's decision, says menteri besar

TUMPAT: The Kelantan government has accepted Sultan Muhammad V's decision to step down as Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob said the state government and the people accepted the decision with an open heart as it was Sultan Muhammad V's right to do so.

"The ruler followed all the rules when he stepped down as Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, and he has made it official.

"As the leader of the state government, I will discuss the issue

with the state secretary and protocol division for action."

Asked whether he was shocked by the decision, Ahmad, who is Pas spiritual leader, said there was no indication that Sultan Muhammad V had intended to step down when they last met at Friday prayers.

Ahmad was speaking after delivering Maghrib kuliah at Al-Hidayah Mosque near Kampung Laut here yesterday.

Sultan Muhammad V stepped down as Yang di-Pertuan Agong effective yesterday.

Constitutional rules provide for exceptions, says expert

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THE unprecedented stepping down of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Muhammad V has raised questions relating to the issue of succession.

Constitutional experts believe that it would hinge on the decision made by the Conference of Rulers.

Professor Datuk Salleh Buang said, according to the third Schedule of the Federal Constitution, the Conference of Rulers would offer the office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to the ruler who qualifies for election. This, he said, depends on which ruler is next on the election list, and provided he accepts the office.

"Under the same section, if the offer is accepted, the Conference of Rulers would declare the elected ruler, after which the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal shall notify the result of the election in writing to

both Houses of Parliament."

Salleh said Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah of Perak might not necessarily become the next king, as the process would have to follow the election list.

Constitutional law expert Nizam Bashir Abdul Kariem Bashir said there are intricate rules in the Constitution as to who will succeed as the king, and this is provided for in the Third Schedule of the Constitution.

He said despite the existence of an election list, there are variations and exceptions that could be made to the list.

"The exceptions that may vary the election list are the ruler being a minor, the ruler notifying that he does not wish to be elected, and the Conference of Rulers by secret ballot resolving that he is unsuitable by reason of infirmity of mind or body, or for any other cause to exercise the functions of a king.

"Without accounting for the above and looking purely at the rulers who succeeded to the post based on the first election cycle, after the sultan of Kelantan, it should be the sultan of Pahang.

"However, keep in mind that there are exceptions to the election list as mentioned above," he said.

Nizam Bashir added that the Conference of Rulers may have predicted the move by Sultan Muhammad V, and a successor may have been chosen.

"If we look at how things have always been done, where the succession of the office is concerned, a new king takes office immediately following the departure of the previous king. I expect the same custom to be observed.

"While we have only received the media statement from Istana Negara today (yesterday), I suspect the formalities have been attended to prior to this.

"The Conference of Rulers, to my mind, takes their duties quite seriously, but again, let's see how this unfolds.

"The appointment of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is a serious matter, after all. Let's wait for the Conference of Rulers to perform its duties in this regard and the declaration to follow suit thereafter," he said.

Istana Negara yesterday issued a statement saying that Sultan Muhammad V had stepped down as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong. His Royal Highness, whose reign began on Dec 13, 2016, officially informed the matter to the Malay rulers through a letter sent to the secretary of the Conference of Rulers.