

PRIME NEWS

Rulers and will of rakyat

ROYAL CALL: Use classical Malay wisdom to solve monarchy conflicts

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KEDAH Regency Council member Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Tuanku Abdul Halim yesterday called for a return to classical Malay wisdom and legacy to resolve conflicts within the monarchy.

In her royal address at a seminar

on "The people, the monarch and the government", she drew on the tale of Sang Sapurba, a legendary figure in the *Malay Annals*, said to have descended from the skies and raised by commoners to become the first ruler of the land.

The tale, she said, showed the Malay ruler could only exist with the will of the people and proved that the conventions of a constitutional monarchy were already practised by the original Malay administrations.

"The idea of a constitutional ruler was not something that we adopted from the West.

"Any conflict involving the rulers should be resolved according to the spirit and wisdom of Malay culture rather than with reference to Lon-

don," she said when opening the seminar organised by the Malay Civilisation Association.

Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz, the daughter of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, said sovereignty in the Malay world was understood as a sharing of power between the people and the monarchy.

"The Malay king does not reign unless called upon. Malay people. In other words, the people empower the ruler.

"The cry 'daulat' is the result of a socialisation process among the Malay people where the ruler is then called to ascend the throne."

She said every Malay state

monarchy had its own practices and conventions (*adat*) and thus, did not need to refer to any other state for precedents in resolving any constitutional issues.

"We need to return to the traditions and wisdom of our people, which must be absorbed and practised together.

"We must understand that our nation is based on our own mould as our culture continues to mature in this modern, globalised world."

Present were Adab trustees Tun Mohd Hanif Omar, Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang and Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (Ideas) founder Tunku Zain Al-Abidin Tuanku Muhriz.