

# Star Special

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DAULAT TUANKU



## Leading with wisdom

Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah continues to guide Perak's growth and uplift its citizens with his legacy of knowledge and compassion as he celebrates his birthday this year.





## SEMPENA ULANG TAHUN KEPUTERAAN TAHUN 2024

Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan  
Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah  
Ibni  
Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah



Sultan Nazrin and Tuanku Zara Salim handing out duit raya to children from an orphanage during the state-level Hari Raya celebrations in Perak, in May. (Left) Sultan Nazrin signing an autograph at the opening of the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital's Women, Children and Cardiology Complex in Ipoh, in February. — RONNIE CHIN/The Star

# Humble and compassionate Ruler

Stories by **MANJIT KAUR** and **IVAN LOH**  
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KNOWN for his humble and compassionate nature, Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah is loved and highly regarded by all.

Sultan Nazrin, who is celebrating his 68th birthday, always has the people in mind and heart, as evident in his royal addresses and speeches.

Born on Nov 27, 1956, in George Town, Penang, Sultan Nazrin is the eldest of five children of the late Sultan Azlan Shah and former Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Bainun.

Sultan Nazrin received his education at Sekolah Rendah Jalan Kuantan and St John's Institution in Kuala Lumpur.

The Ruler also studied at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar and later at Oxford University for a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Sultan Nazrin also holds a Master's in Public Administration and a PhD in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University.

Sultan Nazrin ascended the throne as the 35th Sultan of Perak on May 29, 2014, following the passing of Sultan Azlan. He married Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim on May 17, 2007, and they have two children – Raja Azlan Muzaffar Shah and Raja Nazira Safya Shah.

On Jan 31 this year, Sultan Nazrin took the oath of office for the third time as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, a role he has performed with distinction since 2016.

Sultan Nazrin is well-informed and actively keeps up to date with current events, frequently applying his knowledge and wisdom to provide valuable guidance.

During the opening of the state legislative assembly on Aug 25, 2021, the Ruler had said that the state government needed to pay serious attention to the threat to food security supply by activating the agricultural, livestock and fishing sectors.

Sultan Nazrin emphasised that these sectors should adopt new practices and embrace a modern production culture to enhance food productivity.

On March 28, 2022, at the opening of the state legislative assembly, the Ruler had said the Covid-19 pandemic, natural disasters, inflation and recent wars had threatened the security of the world's food supply.

Sultan Nazrin had said that the government had been implementing concerted actions to improve food security, including through the Industrial Revolution 4.0, to access new markets and attract the younger generation to join the agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry sectors.

During the Maal Hijrah 1444 celebration on July 30, 2022, Sultan Nazrin noted that

## Sultan Nazrin remains a strong advocate for affordable housing, good governance and sustainable development in Perak



Sultan Nazrin inspecting a parade at the 42nd Royal Commissioning and Awarding of Credentials to Cadet Officers from the Reserve Officer Training Unit (Palapes) at Public Universities 2024 at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris in September. — Bernama

Malaysia was on the brink of a food security threat and emphasised the need for diligent efforts and a focus on reducing imports.

In a royal address on Aug 25, 2022, the Ruler stated that water is a priceless natural treasure and a vital resource for human life and numerous economic sectors.

Sultan Nazrin pointed out that there are 11 major river basins in Perak, with Sungai Perak being the largest one, and that the responsibility to preserve the cleanliness of the rivers is the collective responsibility of all parties.

During the opening of the state assembly session in August 2022, the Ruler had mentioned that the government was not in a rush to approve licences on a massive scale for the non-radioactive rare earth elements (NR-REE) pilot mining project.

Sultan Nazrin said prioritising health, safety and the environment was of utmost importance, adding that past incidents of damage to the Earth's surface and the price the state and people have paid after tin mining activities must be used as a lesson.

"Perak should not be content with solely

being the producer of raw materials. On the contrary, the production of raw materials should be complemented with downstream activities so that the materials mined are equipped with added value, which can provide more opportunities for high-level work," Sultan Nazrin said.

At the state assembly opening on March 28, 2022, Sultan Nazrin emphasised that owning a home is a basic need, following essential items like food and clothing. The Ruler stated that the low-income housing programme can help to reduce poverty and such efforts should be increased.

"The government's aim was to build 50,000 affordable housing units between 2018 and 2023. This target was successfully achieved in 2021, with a total of 56,292 houses built," he had said.

In a more recent royal address this year, the Ruler during the opening of the state legislative assembly said robust anti-corruption measures underscore the government's dedication to nurturing a transparent and equitable business environment.

In addressing significant hurdles to spur

economic progress, Sultan Nazrin said that the nation must prioritise good governance to gain the trust of investors.

In his keynote address at the 7th World Conference on Islamic Thought and Civilisation, the Ruler urged the global Muslim community to unite in addressing the growing crisis affecting the *ummah* amid worsening wealth gaps between countries and intensifying international conflicts.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad said that under the Perak Sejahtera 2030 plan launched in 2021, the six main agendas were food security, digital economy, data-based decision-making, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) corridor, responsible mining and state-interest project management.

In June this year, Saarani announced three new additional agendas, namely social development, environmental sustainability and biodiversity, and empowerment of local authorities.

Saarani had said that the plan was the state government's commitment to ensure that every layer of the society could enjoy the results of inclusive development, with the focus being on the people's well-being and ensuring a sustainable environment.

"We want to make Perak a competitive and sustainable state by optimising the potential of natural resources, and advancing on strategic sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and technology-based industries," he had said during the state assembly sitting in November 2022.

In January last year, he said the vision of Perak Sejahtera 2030 was not only to build a stronger economy, but also to form a prosperous, harmonious and resilient society in facing challenges of the future.

"The development we are implementing is to ensure that Perak remains a prosperous state with broad economic opportunities and a balance between physical development and environmental sustainability," he had said when launching the green development project at the Silver Valley Technology Park in June last year.

During the Perak International Expo launch in August last year, Saarani had said they were trying to attract more high-quality investments, including in the field of green and digital technology, to ensure that Perak continues to be at the forefront of global economic transformation.

"Perak Sejahtera 2030 is about building a better future for all the people of Perak, regardless of background and positions.

"We want everyone to enjoy the development that we have achieved," he added.





# Dirgahayu Tuanku

**SEMOGA DIRAHMATI DAN DIBERKATI ALLAH**

Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan  
Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah  
Ibni

Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah

Sultan, Yang Di-Pertuan dan Raja Pemerintah  
Negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan

**SEMPENA ULANG TAHUN KEPUTERAAN TAHUN 2024**

MERAFAK SEMBAH SETINGGI-TINGGI TAHNIAH  
DARIPADA



**YAB Dato' Seri Saarani Bin Mohamad**  
Menteri Besar Perak Darul Ridzuan  
Dan Anggota Pentadbiran Kerajaan Negeri  
Serta Seluruh Rakyat Negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan





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SULTAN Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah recognises the need for new revenue sources, thus calling for non-radioactive rare earth elements (NR-REE) to be mined sustainably and responsibly.

The Perak Sultan had, in his royal address during the opening of the state legislative sitting in 2021, said NR-REE was a new mineral resource that is important now and the future.

Hence, Menteri Besar Incorporated Perak (MB Inc) has taken steps to explore cooperations with scientists and experts to conduct research on the newly discovered minerals.

The NR-REE pilot mining project in Kenering, Hulu Perak, took off in October 2022, with the first batch of rare earth carbonate (REC) exported to China in February last year.

MB Inc chief executive officer Anuar Zainal Abidin said they were actively driving the growth of the REE mineral industry, which has potential to generate high value income for the state.

And until May this year, the state had successfully exported 8,157 metric tonnes of REC to China, with about RM30.9mil in royalties generated.

Anuar said aside from REE, MB Inc. was also committed to driving the state's economy through the management of other mineral-related projects, including tin, kaolin and silica.

"The projects are not only successful in creating job opportunities for locals, but have also enhanced the socio-economic level in the respective areas."

Anuar said Perak aimed to be the leader of the country's mineral industry.

He said to realise this, Terra Mineral Lab Sdn Bhd (TML) and Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Mineral Research were established in Gopeng.

# Perak revives mining glory

## State aims to be leader in country's mineral industry



Sultan Nazrin visiting the TT5 tin dredge.



Visitors walking past the TT5 tin dredge in Tanjung Tualang which has been refurbished and turned into a tourism destination by MB Inc.

"TML aims to be the country's main laboratory by 2030 for mineral analytical services.

"The facility is operated by 15 local experts consisting of chemical engineers, nuclear scientists, senior chemists, chemists and assistant chemists," he added.

Anuar said MB Inc also played an important role in the conservation and preservation of a state heritage icon – the Tanjung Tualang Tin Dredge No. 5 (TT5).

He said TT5 had been successfully developed into an iconic tourist destination, highlighting Perak's heritage.

He added that through a strategic collaboration with a private company, a world-class park inspired by the beauty of nature, ESCAPE Ipoh was launched at TT5 in February.

"This development reflects the ongoing commitment of MB Inc in diversifying its assets in the state for tourism, especially around the TT5 area," he said.

Anuar said MB Inc had also conducted several corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes.

"As a state government-linked company, we've implemented several CSR programmes, which includes social, environmental and educational aspects like the Corporate Leadership Apprentice Scheme

(CLAS) scholarship, Eco-Schools Malaysia, and Tuisyen Cikgu Saarani."

He added, "MB Inc is mandated by the state government as the main leader of mineral development in Perak, and is committed to making the state a pioneer of the country's mineral industry that is progressive and sustainable.

"Through various efforts and strategic initiatives, including leading development of REE minerals, the establishment of TML and CoE, as well as the rehabilitation of the former tin mining site in TT5, MB Inc. ensures that Perak continues to strengthen its position as a leader in the industry national minerals."



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MERAFAK SEMBAH SETINGGI-TINGGI TAHNIAH  
DARIPADA



PERBADANAN MENTERI BESAR

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif

Serta Warga Kerja Perbadanan Menteri Besar Perak (MB Incorporated)







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THE Perak State Agriculture Development Corporation (Perak SADC) is committed to taking proactive steps to strengthen the food security of the state and to ensure sufficient food for the people.

This is in line with the decree by the Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah to ensure the people do not go to bed hungry and also to ensure families have access to safe and healthy food.

Thus, under the leadership of its chief executive officer Datuk Yahanis Yahya, Perak SADC has started several initiatives and high impact projects, including the Perak Halal Industrial Park (HIP).

Perak HIP was designed to have a complete halal eco-system, which covers the food chain from top to bottom and to strengthen the halal food sector and to ensure food security for the long term.

The uniqueness and potential of Perak HIP is expected to attract both local and foreign investors to take part in this transformative project.

Among these foreign investments included getting into a partnership with Leiner Gelatine Sdn Bhd, a globally-known manufacturer of halal gelatine.

The partnership was an important step to diversify and improve the quality of halal products produced in Perak,

# Strengthening food security

## Initiatives boost halal food industry, agriculture and urban farming



Sultan Nazrin holding a bunch of tomatoes grown at the Agroto Collection, Processing and Packaging Centre at KM19 Jalan Simpang Pulai, Cameron Highlands.

while also creating new jobs for locals and also opening up the international market for high value products from Perak.

It also helped to increase the export of halal products to the

global market, especially to other Islamic countries while enhancing Perak's profile as an interesting investment destination in the halal industry.

Perak SADC has also heeded

Sultan Nazrin's call to double up efforts to improve food security through programmes and initiatives under its corporate social responsibility (CSR).

These included interest-free

loans for entrepreneurs since 2019.

About RM1mil in scholarships were offered to 48 youth from various universities as part of Perak SADC's CSR initiative to develop human capital and experts in the agricultural industry to strengthen the food security agenda.

The Perak SADC also took proactive steps to optimise land use for agricultural activities.

This effort involves tenants and lessees in the fields of cash crops, fruits, aquaculture and livestock.

There are a total of 372 entrepreneurs throughout the state involved, with the total area of crops of about 3,154ha.

Perak SADC also introduced the concept of urban farming for the people to earn some side income in July 2020.

The concept, which was inspired by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad's remark to "grow what we eat and eat what we grow" and to sell the rest, has benefitted 189 communities and 81,050 households through community farming, rural farming and edu-farming.



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MERAFAK SEMBAH SETINGGI-TINGGI TAHNIAH  
DARIPADA



Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif  
Serta Warga Kerja Perbadanan Pembangunan Pertanian Negeri Perak (Perak SADC)







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PERAK has two mega projects that will transform it into a dynamic and prosperous state. Perak State Development Corporation (PKNPK) chief executive Datuk Redza Rafiq Abdul Razak said the Silver Valley Technology Park (SVTP) and the Lumut Maritime Industrial City (LuMIC) would revitalise the state's economic infrastructure and also combat urban sprawl by fostering concentrated hubs of economic activity.

"SVTP and LuMIC, spearheaded by PKNPK, are more than just mere projects.

"They are crucial elements in the strategic transformation of Perak into a dynamic and prosperous state," he said.

"As Perak contended with the repercussions of globalisation, including economic agglomeration and migration, it also faced challenges such as urban sprawl.

"By building on the lessons of the past and leveraging innovative diversification strategies, these initiatives are crucial in ensuring Perak's relevance and resilience in the global economy," he added.

He said Perak's economic landscape had been formerly dominated by the tin-mining industry and rubber plantations.

"These foundational industries, which had been crucial to the state's early prosperity, faced decline due to global market shifts and technological changes.

"This necessitated a shift towards a diversified economy to

# Two mega projects set to transform Perak

## High-tech park and maritime city to drive state's future economy



Redza Rafiq says the projects will revitalise the state's economic infrastructure and also combat urban sprawl.

mitigate the cyclical nature of resource-dependent industries, prompting strategic urban regeneration," he said, adding that the state had undergone significant transformation since.

Redza Rafiq said SVTP aimed to transform Perak into a beacon of technological innovation.

"As a state-of-the-art technology park, SVTP is designed to attract leading tech companies and start-



Perak Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad (middle) witnessing the signing of Joint Venture Shareholders' Agreement between Port of Antwerp-Bruges International (PoABI) and PKNPK.

ups, creating a vibrant ecosystem of high-tech innovation and development.

"This hub will focus on cutting-edge sectors such as mineral based industry, electrics and electronics, pharmaceuticals and digital economy providing a platform for local businesses to integrate into the global tech landscape," he said.

As for LuMIC, he said it was set

to enhance the state's maritime and industrial sectors by developing a comprehensive maritime industrial park.

"This project will include advanced shipping facilities, logistics hubs, and industrial zones tailored to heavy industries and maritime-related businesses.

"LuMIC's strategic location along one of South-East Asia's busiest maritime routes will

leverage Perak's geographic advantages, enhancing its appeal to international investors and businesses," he added.

Redza Rafiq said both projects also represented a strategic call to Perak's diaspora.

"By prioritising environments that nurture technological innovation and robust industrial growth, SVTP and LuMIC provide compelling reasons for local talents who have moved away to consider returning.

"This supports Perak's economic revival and enriches the state with diverse skills and expertise necessary for a sustainable future," he said.

"We will continue to champion both projects, which are pivotal to realising high-tech industries and maritime logistics as cornerstones of Perak's future economy.

"These projects also directly align with the goals of the Perak Sejahtera 2030 plan by driving economic diversity and resilience, ensuring that Perak can withstand future economic disruptions," he added.



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Ketua Eksekutif

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THE Perak Water Board (LAP) will adapt to aspirations towards the transformation of digital technology in water services and management, as decreed by Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah.

His Royal Highness had, in his royal address when opening the state legislative assembly sitting in May 2020, said the government delivery system could be sped up by adopting the usage of information communications and digital technologies.

This, Sultan Nazrin said, could also improve productivity and revenue, as the era of Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR4.0) and digital economy are new phenomena that all countries are facing.

LAP general manager Lokman Abd Rahim said that in mind, they were introducing and adapting to the latest technology in their daily affairs.

“IR4.0 is a policy that is supported by all and Malaysia is no exception in realising this modernisation policy.

“In a nutshell, IR4.0 is the continuous automation in the traditional manufacturing and industrial sector, using modern smart technology to reduce the dependence on manual labour to increase the effectiveness and quality of the output produced.

“Since 2018, the direction for digital transformation at LAP is part of a comprehensive development plan that focuses on the use of smart technology to

# Riding the digital wave

Perak Water Board using technology to improve services, efficiency



LAP has developed and used information technology systems for water quality monitoring, non-revenue water management and supply digital mapping among others.

improve service quality and efficiency of our daily operations,” he added.

Lokman said under the development plan, LAP had developed and used several information technology systems.

These, he said, included systems for maintenance, certification, water quality monitoring, non-revenue water management, water supply asset management, supply digital mapping, supply application, complaints,

bill payment, job application, telemetry monitoring, treatment plant management, perimeter control and smart meter usage testing.

“With the advancement of Internet of Things (IoT), some of

the systems that have been developed are able to communicate and share data on a machine-to-machine (M2M) basis.

“These can then be shared and updated in the Geographical Information System (GIS) digital mapping system,” he said.

“The entire data generated through this comprehensive and centralised data collection method is expected to be able to help us in terms of data regulatory requirements.

“These cover information on supply coverage, supply disruption, treated water quality, water pressure, production, water loss control, user complaints, water bill collection effectiveness, supply structure planning and designing, asset management and monitoring and certification of applications,” he added.

Lokman hoped that with the technology and systems in place, it could help LAP to make decisions easily, accurately, quickly and effectively.

“This would then increase the level of user satisfaction and also close the utility industry’s digital data sharing gap,” he said.



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Pengurus Besar  
Serta Warga Kerja Lembaga Air Perak







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ENSURING the people of Perak are able to afford homes is one of the main priorities of the state government.

Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah had, in his royal address during the opening of the state legislative assembly sitting in February earlier this year, decreed that it should be the main agenda of the state government.

Sultan Nazrin had said then that efforts to meet the people's needs should be prioritised over profit-making.

Acting Perak State Secretary Incorporated (SSI) chief executive officer Zulkefli Abdullah said a total of 1,776 units of affordable homes had already been built, with 568 units being offered in the open market.

Among the projects completed are the development of double-storey terrace houses in Kerian and medium-cost terrace houses in Kinta district.

"With the aim of ensuring the comfort and well-being of the people, various housing projects have been planned and developed, including those that have already been completed and those that are currently being planned.

"Through this effort, SSI is committed to meeting housing demand as well as contributing to the state's economic growth," he said.

"The initiative to provide affordable housing is also being realised through the Perakku housing scheme, where 354 units of Perakku I, 310 units of Perakku II, and 544 units of Perakku III were completed and ready for the people to move in.

"It is part of the state government's efforts to enable the people the opportunity to own a house at a more reasonable price," he added.

# Building more affordable homes for Perak folk

Over 1,200 units under Perakku scheme completed, ready to move in



A row of terrace houses in Kampar developed by Perak State Secretary Incorporated.

Zulkefli said SSI also focused on projects currently under construction and planning.

He said a total of 7,993 units of homes were being planned and built, including 3,459 units for the open market.

"Various homes under Perakku housing schemes are expected to be completed in stages until 2030, allowing more options for the people of Perak to own a house that suits their capability," he said.

"Several other projects in the Kinta district, which includes two-storey Semi-D houses, serviced apartments and office shop units, are being developed.

"These are expected to be completed between 2026 and 2028, and could spur local economic growth as well as provide more residential and commercial space in Perak," he added.

Zulkefli said the state would continue

to see an increase in the number of affordable homes through the various projects planned in the next few years.

"SSI will continue with its efforts to provide quality homes at affordable prices that is in line with the state government's desire to form a prosperous and prosperous society.

"Perak is on the right track to continue progressing as a state that offers better housing and life opportunities for all.

"With this holistic approach, Perak proves that it is not only capable of leading housing development but also ensures that every step is taken with full responsibility," he said, adding that SSI would also ensure its development projects were implemented sustainably and also focused on environmental preservation.

"Through cooperation between the state government, developers, and the community, Perak is ready to step forward as a state that offers dream homes for every citizen.

"With various projects that have been completed and are under construction, Perak has succeeded in strengthening its position as a proactive state in providing quality housing facilities to the people," he added.



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**TEAM KERIS BERHAD**

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# *Dirgahayu Tuanku*

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# King of the people's hearts

Snapshots of the Perak Ruler out and about promoting important causes that benefit the state and rakyat



Sultan Nazrin presenting the Best Teacher Award for Perak Islamic Kindergartens 2024 to Faiza Tajudin during the Perak Islamic Education Excellence Awards 2025 at the Perak Islamic Administration Institute (Intim) in October. — Bernama



(Left) Sultan Nazrin and Tuanku Zara Salim visiting a booth during the national-level International Day of Forests event at Meru Raya Ipoh in April 2024. — RONNIE CHIN/ The Star

(Below) Sultan Nazrin and Tuanku Zara Salim visiting the Perak Pavilion during the Malaysian Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Exhibition 2024 in Serdang, in September. — Bernama





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Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah  
Ibni  
Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah

Sultan, Yang Di-Pertuan dan Raja Pemerintah  
Negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan

**SEMPENA ULANG TAHUN KEPUTERAAN TAHUN 2024**

MERAFAK SEMBAH SETINGGI-TINGGI TAHNIAH

DARIPADA



## More Than Racing

Pengerusi dan Ahli Jawatankuasa Kelab Lumba Kuda Perak

