

Star Special

THE STAR, TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024

HONOURING THE REIGN



Thank you, Your Majesty

Malaysians express heartfelt gratitude and bid a fond farewell to the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, as His Majesty steps down after five years on the throne.

A wise and just Ruler



Sultan Abdullah inspecting the guard of honour during the opening ceremony of the second session of the 14th Parliament in March 2019. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star



Sultan Abdullah greeting media practitioners who were camping in front of Istana Negara to follow the current political developments after GE15. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



Sultan Abdullah presenting Anwar Ibrahim with the Royal Decree at the opening of the 15th Parliament. — Bernama



Their Majesties leave after the opening ceremony of the second session of the 14th Parliament.

Stories by ONG HAN SEAN
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AL-SULTAN Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's reign is certainly not without its challenges as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong had to steer the country through multiple political crises.

His Majesty's reign saw an unprecedented resignation of two prime ministers, the collapse of two governments and the establishment of a new unity government. Four prime ministers also served during the five years Sultan Abdullah was on the throne.

"Etched in the nation's history, I am the only King who reigned with four prime ministers and four different Cabinets," said Sultan Abdullah of his reign at the opening of the 15th Parliament last year.

It all began when Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad resigned as the seventh prime minister on Feb 24, 2020, which caused the collapse of the Pakatan Harapan government.

A period of political upheaval subsequently followed as factions scrambled for support to form the next government. This culminated with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong appointing Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as the eighth prime minister on March 1, 2020 after finding that he had secured the

majority support in Parliament.

There should be relief that the turmoil had passed but despite Sultan Abdullah's hopes, Muhyiddin ended up resigning on Aug 16, 2021.

"This means that I was once again forced to bear the heavy burden of choosing and appointing a new prime minister," said the King.

Sultan Abdullah subsequently appointed Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the ninth prime minister on Aug 21, 2021, after the Bera MP obtained a majority of parliamentary support.

On Oct 10, 2022, Sultan Abdullah consented to Ismail Sabri's request to dissolve Parliament, paving the way for the 15th General Election (GE15).

However, another political conundrum happened as none of the parties and coalitions had the clear majority to form the government.

"After the GE15 concluded, for the first time in Malaysia's democratic history, the country was faced with a hung parliament situation. Once again, I had taken on the heavy task of choosing and appointing another prime minister," said the King.

As days of uncertainty followed, Al-Sultan Abdullah had to summon the leaders of the political parties and persuade them to put aside their

differences and form a unity government.

The King said he gave ample room for the elected MPs to work together and find a consensus based on the principles of unity for the future of the country.

Eventually, Pakatan Harapan chairman Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim gained the commitment of a majority of MPs to support the formation of the unity government.

His Majesty thus consented to the appointment of Anwar as the 10th Prime Minister of Malaysia.

"I hope that the 10th Prime Minister will be the last for me, before I return to Pahang Darul Makmur," Sultan Abdullah said.

His Majesty added that he was merely carrying out his duties as King and had no intention of interfering in national politics. Sultan Abdullah's deft hand and wisdom at handling the political crises during his reign had earned him plaudits from his peers, leaders and the public.

Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, who will take up the position of Yang di-Pertuan Agong next, said Sultan Abdullah successfully resolved several challenging issues in negotiations with political leaders and with the Rulers.

"His Majesty's success is not only

through resolving the political crisis but also in caring for the people," Sultan Ibrahim said when presiding over the Conference of Rulers meeting last year.

Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi also praised Sultan Abdullah for his unity government idea.

"His Majesty had carried out his role justly and with much wisdom – as written in the Federal Constitution – to ensure a government was formed by taking into account views of all parties.

"The unity government was His Majesty's manifestation of the spirit of tolerance and cooperation. He sought to nurture understanding, put aside differences for the sake of building a harmonious, inclusive nation," Ahmad Zahid reportedly said.

Nevertheless, Sultan Abdullah felt the political turmoil that lasted until GE15 could have been avoided if the episodes leading to the resignation of the seventh prime minister did not happen.

"More importantly, the political crisis that plagued the country for nearly four years could have been avoided if elected representatives and politicians were ready to set aside their differences and unite for the people and the country we loved," said the King.

Daulat Tuanku

Salutations and Heartfelt Gratitude



HIS MAJESTY
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG
AL-SULTAN ABDULLAH RI'AYATUDDIN AL-MUSTAFA BILLAH SHAH
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN HAJI AHMAD SHAH AL-MUSTA'IN BILLAH

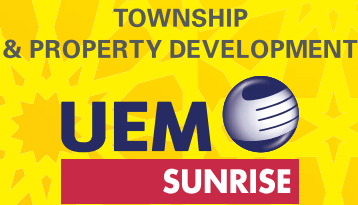
and

HER MAJESTY
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG
TUNKU AZIZAH AMINAH MAIMUNAH ISKANDARIAH BINTI
ALMARHUM AL-MUTAWAKKIL ALALLAH SULTAN ISKANDAR AL-HAJ

on the Occasion of

The end of His Majesty's reign as
The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI
31 January 2019 - 30 January 2024

With utmost sincerity from



Daulat Tuanku

Salutations and Heartfelt Gratitude



**HIS MAJESTY
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG
AL-SULTAN ABDULLAH RI'AYATUDDIN AL-MUSTAFA BILLAH SHAH
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Ranhill Utilities Berhad
201401014973 (1091059-K)
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Ranhill Capital Sdn Bhd 201401034295 (1110393-P)
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Timeline of the King's reign

THROUGHOUT Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's reign as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, His Majesty has seen the nation through periods of celebration and also turmoil.

From multiple political crises to the proclamation of a new city, we take a look at some of the major events in His Majesty's five-year reign.

Jan 24, 2019 – Sultan Abdullah is elected by the Conference of Rulers as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Jan 31, 2019 – Sultan Abdullah is officially sworn in as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

July 30, 2019 – A ceremony steeped in tradition is held at Istana Negara to install Sultan Abdullah as Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Feb 24, 2020 – Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad resigns as prime minister, causing the collapse of the Pakatan Harapan government.

Mar 1, 2020 – Sultan Abdullah appoints Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as prime minister.

Jan 12, 2021 – A nationwide state of emergency is declared by Sultan Abdullah to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Feb 21, 2021 – Kuantan becomes a city by Sultan Abdullah's proclamation.

Aug 16, 2021 – Muhyiddin resigns as prime minister

following a loss of majority support in Parliament.

Aug 21, 2021 – Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob is appointed as the next prime minister by decree of Sultan Abdullah.

Sept 19, 2022 – Sultan Abdullah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah attend the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away at the age of 96.

Oct 10, 2022 – Parliament is dissolved with Sultan Abdullah's consent, paving the way for the 15th General Election.

Nov 24, 2022 – Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is sworn in as the 10th Prime Minister of Malaysia before Sultan Abdullah.

May 6, 2023 – Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah attend the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey, London.

Sept 3, 2023 – Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah begin an 11-day tour of Sabah and Sarawak as part of the Kembara Kenali Borneo programme.

Dec 11, 2023 – Sultan Abdullah officiates the installation of the first track for the East Coast Rail Link project.

Jan 30, 2024 – Sultan Abdullah ends his tenure as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, with Sultan Ibrahim Almarhum Sultan Iskandar beginning his term next.



Sultan Abdullah kissing the Keris Panjang Diraja which symbolises the centralisation of power entrusted to him during his installation ceremony at Istana Negara on July 30, 2019. — Bernama



Dr Mahathir leaving the palace after meeting the king on Feb 24, 2020. His resignation as prime minister caused the collapse of the Pakatan Harapan government. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star



Staff members and customers watching the dissolution of Parliament announcement by Ismail Sabri on Oct 10, 2022. — YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



Anwar took his oath of office, loyalty and secrecy before Sultan Abdullah at Istana Negara on Nov 24, 2022. — Bernama



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah gracing the Parade of Thanks to mark the end of his reign as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the Army Square, Sungai Besi Camp. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

Daulat Tuanku

Salutations and Heartfelt Gratitude



**HIS MAJESTY
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With utmost sincerity from



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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Daulat Tuanku

Merafak Sembah Menjunjung Kasih



**KEBAWAH DULI YANG MAHA MULIA
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Sempena

**Tamat Tempoh Pemerintahan Seri Paduka Baginda Tuanku
Sebagai Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI
31 Januari 2019 - 30 Januari 2024**

Sembah Takzim Daripada

**AHLI-AHLI JOHOR CORPORATION, BARISAN PENGURUSAN
DAN SELURUH ANGGOTA PEKERJA SERTA SYARIKAT KUMPULAN**

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Daulat Tuanku

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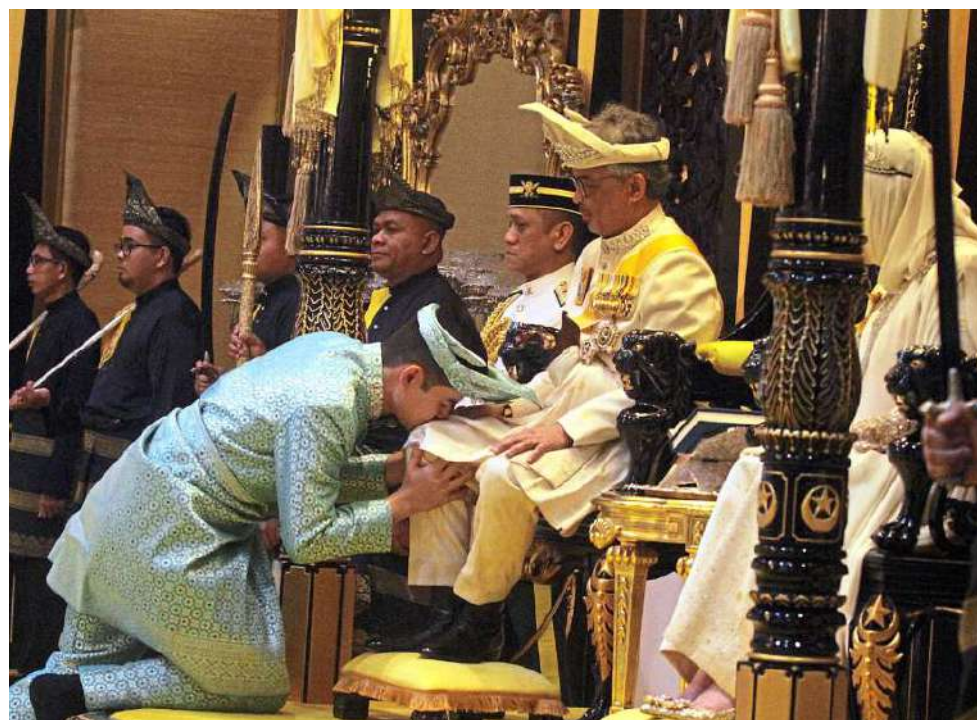


Property

The King's monarchical journey



Sultan Abdullah receiving the 'Titah ikrar' text speech as the Sixth Sultan of Pahang, from his brother Tengku Abdul Rahman during the ceremony held in Istana Abu Bakar, Pekan.



Tengku Mahkota Pahang Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah honouring his father after being proclaimed as the Tengku Mahkota Pahang in Istana Abu Bakar, Pekan.



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah arriving at the Bunga Raya complex, KLIA, for the welcome ceremony in Parliament on Jan 31, 2019. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star.

AS Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ends his term as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, we take a look back at how His Majesty ascended to the position.

Malaysia is one of the few sovereign states in the world that has a true elective monarchy where the nation's Yang di-Pertuan Agong is chosen from among the nine Malay rulers.

The system was set into motion on Jan 6, 2019, when in a shocking turn of events, Sultan Muhammad V of Kelantan abruptly stepped down from his post as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong without finishing his tenure.

Under the rotation order of the nine Malay rulers, the Sultan of Pahang should be the next to reign as King.

However, the then reigning Sultan of Pahang Almarhum Paduka Ayahanda Sultan Ahmad Shah was ill and in no

condition to fill the vacancy.

This kicked off a whirlwind process in Pahang to place Sultan Abdullah on the throne as the next Sultan of Pahang.

In a matter of days, an amendment to the state constitution was made to allow the Pahang royal council to conduct Sultan Ahmad Shah's abdication.

As the heir to the Pahang throne, Sultan Abdullah was subsequently proclaimed the sixth Sultan of Pahang of the modern era on Jan 15, 2019, paving the way for him to become King.

On Jan 24, 2019, the Conference of Rulers chose Sultan Abdullah as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Sultan Abdullah thus had the distinction as having only reigned as the Sultan of Pahang for less than two weeks before it was decided by the Conference of Rulers that he would be King. His five-year term took effect on Jan 31, 2019.

Voice of reason and unification

"RAJA dan rakyat berpisah tiada" (The Ruler and the people are inseparable) is the motto of the Pahang Sultanate, which has been exemplified by Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's reign as Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

From the Covid-19 pandemic to the Kembara Kenali Borneo tour, Sultan Abdullah had been a symbol of a strong relationship between the monarchy and the people.

Throughout the pandemic, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong served as Malaysians' voice of reason and unification.

Sultan Abdullah in particular, urged the populace to battle the virus with patience and collaboration. His Majesty said at that time that he was aware of the complaints over the national movement control order but stressed the importance of unity to curb the spread of Covid-19.

In managing the pandemic, Sultan Abdullah declared a state of emergency in January 2021 in order to contain the spread of the disease after the number of infections continued to increase.

Sultan Abdullah did not give his assent in October 2020 when then-prime minis-



Sultan Abdullah trying the sumpit during a visit to the Kadazandusun Cultural Association Complex (KDCA) (left) and with a baby Bornean elephant known as Taburi at the Orang Utan Conservation Centre in Sepilok in conjunction with the Kembara Kenali Borneo programme. With His Majesty is Tunku Azizah. — Bernama

ter Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin proposed the measure, saying there was no need to implement a state of emergency at that time.

In September 2023, Sultan Abdullah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah embarked on an 11-day tour across Sabah and Sarawak in order to get to know more about the Malaysians living there.

The inaugural Kembara Kenali Borneo saw Their Majesties receiving an excep-

tional reception from the people of both states.

As Their Majesties took the 2,154km journey along the Pan Borneo Highway, they were enlightened to the culture, issues and the spirit of unity of the people of Sabah and Sarawak.

Issues that were brought to Sultan Abdullah's attention during the tour were also forwarded to the Prime Minister's Department for action.

Comptroller of the Istana Negara Royal

Household Major General Datuk Zahari Mohd Ariffin said Their Majesties' experience had been etched in their hearts as sweet memories that will never be forgotten.

"Furthermore, Their Majesties also express their joy because the Kembara Kenali Borneo programme had provided an opportunity to strengthen the bonds between Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak and to realise the spirit of 'Raja dan rakyat berpisah tiada'," said Zahari.



Daulat Tuanku

Salutations and Heartfelt Gratitude



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**THE SARAWAK GOVERNMENT
AND
THE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK**

Daulat Tuanku

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Tunku Azizah weaving a mat during the Pesta Keramaian at the Kembara Kenali Borneo programme in Pantai Bungai Bekenu. — Bernama

Compassionate, peace-loving Queen



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah being greeted by hundreds of people upon arrival at the Sabah Forestry Institute in Telupid (above) and by teachers and students in Tawau (below). — Bernama



Tunku Azizah speaking during a press conference at Istana Negara to announce details of the Malaysia Heritage Crafts exhibition organised as part of London Craft Week. — KAMARUL ARIFFIN/The Star



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah were greeted by students from Tadika Kemas and Perpaduan Tawau when they arrived at the Tawau Airport. — Bernama

THROUGHOUT Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's reign as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Raja Permaisuri Agong has stood as a pillar of strength beside her husband.

Although the Raja Permaisuri Agong position is not specifically designated in the Federal Constitution, the Queen still comes after the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in the order of precedence.

Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah has served in the role since Sultan Abdullah was proclaimed Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 2019. It was just two days after Her Majesty's own proclamation as Tengku Ampuan Pahang.

Her Majesty was born at Istana Bukit

Stulang, Johor Baru to Almarhum Sultan Iskandar and Almarhumah Enche' Besar Hajah Khalsom Abdullah.

Tunku Azizah is the sister of Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, who will be the next Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

For the past five years of Sultan Abdullah's reign, Tunku Azizah had brought her passions to the national as well as international stages.

Close to Her Majesty's heart is Malaysian heritage as well as arts and craft, which Tunku Azizah had successfully promoted for two consecutive years at the London Craft Week.

In 2022, Tunku Azizah took Tenun

Pahang Diraja to the exhibition while in 2023, she shared craftwork such as Songket Terengganu, weaving products by the Semelai people of Pahang (Anyaman Pandakan), Mah Meri weaving heritage (Anyaman Pandan) and ancestors sculptures from Selangor.

Tunku Azizah's compassion for the people could also be seen by Her Majesty's willingness to adopt a girl suffering from congenital generalised hypertrichosis syndrome, which causes excessive facial and upper body hair.

Two-year-old Missclyen Roland had caught the attention of Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah when the royal couple was on their Kembara Kenali Borneo tour

through Sabah and Sarawak.

In a letter delivered to the girl's mother later, Tunku Azizah expressed her wish to be Missclyen's benefactor for her education and treatment.

On the Gaza-Israel conflict, Tunku Azizah called on global leaders to demand an immediate ceasefire and permanently open a humanitarian corridor to Gaza.

Her Majesty said she was saying that not only as a Queen but as a mother, she was worried for the Gazan people, the safety of the children and for humanity.

Exemplifying the "Ruler and the people are inseparable" motto, Tunku Azizah always had a compassionate personality befitting a Queen of the people.

Daulat Tuanku

Merafak Sembah Menjunjung Kasih



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Sembah Takzim Daripada



**Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (902884V)
Malaysia Rapid Transit System Sdn Bhd (1353462-M)**

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ALMARHUM AL-MUTAWAKKIL ALALLAH SULTAN ISKANDAR AL-HAJ**

on the Occasion of

**The end of His Majesty's reign as
The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI
31 January 2019 - 30 January 2024**

With utmost sincerity from

**DATO' FRANKY CHUA, DIMP
The Board of Directors, Management & Staff**



FRANKY Group of Companies

Daulat Tuanku

Salutations and Heartfelt Gratitude



**HIS MAJESTY
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG
AL-SULTAN ABDULLAH RI'AYATUDDIN AL-MUSTAFA BILLAH SHAH
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN HAJI AHMAD SHAH AL-MUSTA'IN BILLAH**

and

**HER MAJESTY
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG
TUNKU AZIZAH AMINAH MAIMUNAH ISKANDARIAH BINTI
ALMARHUM AL-MUTAWAKKIL ALALLAH SULTAN ISKANDAR AL-HAJ**

on the Occasion of

**The end of His Majesty's reign as
The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI
31 January 2019 - 30 January 2024**

With utmost sincerity from



**Datuk Bandar Kuantan, Ahli Majlis dan seluruh warga
Majlis Bandaraya Kuantan**

Daulat Tuanku

Merafak Sembah Menjunjung Kasih



**KEBAWAH DULI YANG MAHA MULIA
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG
AL-SULTAN ABDULLAH RI'AYATUDDIN AL-MUSTAFA BILLAH SHAH
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN HAJI AHMAD SHAH AL-MUSTA'IN BILLAH**

dan

**KEBAWAH DULI YANG MAHA MULIA
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG
TUNKU AZIZAH AMINAH MAIMUNAH ISKANDARIAH BINTI
ALMARHUM AL-MUTAWAKKIL ALALLAH SULTAN ISKANDAR AL-HAJ**

Sempena

**Tamat Tempoh Pemerintahan Seri Paduka Baginda Tuanku
Sebagai Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI
31 Januari 2019 - 30 Januari 2024**

Sembah Takzim Daripada

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Leong Hoy Kum (Pengasas dan Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan)

Ahli Lembaga Pengarah

Pengurusan dan Kakitangan

MahSing

Reinvent Spaces. Enhance Life.