Star Special

THE STAR, SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2025

DAULAT TUANKU

# Devoted to Kedah

As Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah marks his 83rd birthday, the monarch continues to lead the state with a warrior's soul and heart for his subjects.

# Kedah's welfare at the heart of lifelong mission

## Monarch always prioritises well-being of his people and state

By CATHERINE CHONG
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HIS Royal Highness Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah's 83rd birthday wish is for the continuous peace and prosperity of his beloved subjects.

More than anything else, the people will always come first for the Ruler as he celebrates his official birthday today, which is gazetted as a public holiday.

The celebration is marked by a host of programmes including *yasin* reading and thanksgiving ceremony at Masjid Zahir and a guard of honour parade at Dataran Medan Bandar.

Lined up are also the investiture ceremony of awards, medals and honours as well as a state banquet to be attended by state leaders and dignitaries at Istana Anak Bukit.

The 29th Sultan of Kedah, whose actual birthday falls on April 30, has been ruling Kedah with immense kindness and compassion towards ensuring economic progress and abundance of blessings for the state, and more importantly, for the people.

The revered monarch's dedication to his subjects is apparent in the coffee table book that he authored in 2022.

Titled *'From Soldier to King: The Journey'*, the book symbolises his sincere and undying love for the people.

"As long as I live, nostalgically armed with the soul of a warrior that I inherited with my military title, the welfare and well-being of the people of Kedah Darul Aman will always be my ultimate priority."

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin was born on April 30, 1942 in Alor Setar and is the ninth of 14 siblings of the late Sultan Badlishah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, the 27th Sultan of Kedah.

His Royal Highness's mother, Almarhumah Sultanah Asma Almarhum Sultan Sulaiman was the daughter of the Sultan of Terengganu, Almarhum Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah.

The Ruler began his early education at Sekolah Melayu Alor Merah before continuing his studies at the Sultan Abdul Hamid College, where he had the opportunity to interact with students from different races and status.

His Royal Highness was actively involved in various activities including rugby, football and the debate team. His most unforgettable experience was his participation in the four-day bamboo rafting expedition from Sungai Sik to Sungai Kuala Muda in 1958.

Following his graduation from Senior Cambridge, Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin worked as a temporary teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Iskandar, Alor Setar, in 1962.

Acting on the advice of his elder brother, the late Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, and his deep interest in the military, he chose to undergo cadet training and was sent to the India Military Academy in Dehradun, India, from July 23, 1962 to June 30, 1963.

Upon his return to his homeland, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant on Feb 12, 1964 and was subsequently posted to the 2nd Battalion Royal Malay Regiment (RMR) in Pengkalan Chepa, Kota Baru in Kelantan.

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin, who is celebrating his 83rd birthday today, with Sultanah Maliha Almarhum Tengku Ariff.

During his time in the service, he was engaged in security operations along the common border with Thailand in the states of Kelantan, Kedah and Perak.

A critical stint was the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation where his battalion was active at Kalabakan and the Indonesia/Malaysia border such as Kampung Mentadah, Simpang Tiga and Apas Balong.

The 2nd Battalion was later transferred to Pengkalan Chepa in 1965 and subsequently to Kem Sungai Besi in 1966.

The following year, the battalion was based in Sarawak where they conducted operations at the Indonesia/Malaysia border until 1968.

In 1969, Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin was stationed at Tok Jalai Camp in Kedah. During the critical May 1969 incident, his battalion was involved in an operation in Penang.

His Royal Highness retired from the Armed Forces on Feb 14, 1974.

During his retirement break, he underwent training at the National Productivity Council (NPC), Malaysian Institute of Management (MIM) as well as management courses in the United States.

The monarch has wide experiences in the corporate world especially in property development, logging and construction.

His involvement in the various fields has certainly made His Royal Highness more sensitive and aware of public development issues, such as the importance of education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), basic facilities, water treatment, housing, agriculture, plantations, transportation, roads, natural resources and *waqf*.

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin is also concerned and cares deeply about history, especially the history of Kedah. He believes that historical literacy will develop the people's mind and love for the state and country.

His concern and love for the well-being of the people and environment sustainability have constantly been expressed in his speeches, especially at the policy making stage, such as during the opening of the State Legislative Assembly (DUN).

This love and concern have also led to His Royal Highness constantly visiting, reminding and being briefed on the impact of development in the state.

His views on the needs and aspirations of the people have made it possible for him to articulate the various aspects of social and physical development.

The Ruler's speeches always emphasise the importance of scholarship which is based on theology, humanity, organised society and sustainable environment.

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin has a friendly but firm character when it comes to decision making, and is very meticulous about his appearance.

His military training had instilled the values of discipline, loyalty, hard work and respect and shaped his persona into someone who is strict and precise. These qualities greatly influenced his outlook towards life outside the palace.

His Royal Highness was conferred the rank of Brigadier General in 2007 and served as advisor to the territorial army when he was the Tunku Temenggong Kedah, and later the Crown Prince.

Now a Sultan, he is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Malay Regiment and also the Royal Ordinance Corps.

The monarch was conferred the Pahlawan Angkatan Tentera (PAT) or The Most Gallant Order of Military Service by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 2012 for his exceptional service in the Malaysian Armed Forces.

His Royal Highness is very active in sports, is an avid golfer, and loves animals just like his late father. He keeps cats of various breeds as pets. During his leisure time, he likes to go sightseeing and travelling with his children and grandchildren.

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin met his consort Her Royal Highness Sultanah Maliha Almarhum Tengku Ariff, who is from the royal family of Kelantan, when he was posted there with the Royal Malay Regiment.

The happy couple was married on Nov 26, 1965 and blessed with two sons – DYTM Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah (who is the current Tuanku Raja Muda Kedah) on March 2, 1967 and DYAM Tunku Shazuddin Ariff (who is the current Tunku Mahkota Kedah) on April 27, 1970.

Tengku Sarafudin is married to DYTM Che Puan Muda Zaheeda and has two children, a prince and a princess, while Tunku Shazuddin is married to DYAM Che Puan Nur Julie Ariff.

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin was proclaimed as YTM Tunku Temenggong Kedah on Nov 28, 1981. He was also appointed as a member of the Kedah Council of Regency when his eldest brother, Almarhum Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, served as the King from 2011 to 2016.

His Royal Highness later chaired that Council after the demise of his older brother, Almarhum Dato' Seri Utama Tan Sri Tunku Annuar, in 2014 and held the post until Dec 12, 2016.

The Ruler was proclaimed as the 19th Raja Muda of Kedah on Dec 15, 2016, succeeding another elder brother Almarhum Tunku Abdul Malik, who passed away on Nov 29, 2015.

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin ascended the throne on Sept 12, 2017, succeeding his brother, the late Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah.

The monarch holds several key positions, among them are chancellor of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah (UniSHAMS).

His Royal Highness was conferred the title of Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Kelantan Yang Amat Mulia (SPMK) on Nov 28, 2016 and Darjah Kerabat Yang Amat Di-Hormati (Al-Yunus), D.K (Kelantan) on Sept 30, 2017.

The Darjah Kerabat Kedah on Jan 15, 2017, Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat Di-Hormati Pangkat Pertama D.K 1 on Oct 30, 2017, and Darjah Kerabat DiRaja Yang Amat Di-Hormati Perak on Dec 4, 2017.

Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin also received the Darjah Kerabat Yang Amat Di-Hormati Selangor on Jan 25, 2018, Darjah Kerabat Negeri Sembilan on Aug 21, 2018, Darjah Kerabat Baginda Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail (Perlis) on Sept 13, 2018, Darjah Mahkota Negara (DMN) from the Prime Minister on Oct 15, 2018, and Darjah Kerabat Sri Indera Mahkota Pahang on Sept 5, 2019.

# *Daulat Tuanku*

## Salutations And Heartiest Congratulations

**His Royal Highness**
**Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah,**
D.K., D.K.H., D.M.N., D.U.K., D.K. (Kelantan)., D.K. (Johor)., D.K. (Perak)., D.K. (Selangor)., D.K. (Negeri Sembilan)., D.K. (Perlis)., D.K. (Pahang)., D.M.K., S.M.D.K., S.H.M.S., S.G.M.K., S.P.M.K., S.S.D.K.

**The Sultan Of Kedah Darul Aman**

and

**Her Royal Highness Sultanah Maliha binti Almarhum Tengku Ariff,**
D.K., S.S.S.K., S.H.M.S., S.S.D.K., D.S.D.K.

**The Sultanah Of Kedah Darul Aman**

on the occasion of

**His Royal Highness The Sultan Of Kedah 83rd Birthday**

on

**22nd June 2025 (25 Zulhijah 1446H)**
**Allah SWT Bless His Royal Highness**

***With utmost sincerity from***

**Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohamad Fuzi Bin Harun** (Independent Non-Executive Chairman),
**Tan Sri Dato' Tan Chee Sing** (Group Executive Vice Chairman),
**Board of Directors, Management and Staff Members of**

TROPICANA
CORPORATION BERHAD

[Registration No: 197901003695 (47908K)]
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

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On behalf of the Management and Staff of

Aurelius Hospital | ALOR SETAR

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**Executive Chairman,**
**Board of Directors, Management & Staff**

YTL
SINCE 1955

**YTL Corporation Berhad**

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MEDIA GROUP

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**THE HONOURABLE**
**DATO' SERI HAJI MUHAMMAD SANUSI BIN MD NOR,**
S.P.M.K., A.M.K.
**THE CHIEF MINISTER OF KEDAH**
and
**The Kedah State Government**

(From left) Sultan of Kedah Al Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin with His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, and Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail at the pre-council meeting of the 268th Meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara on Feb 4.

(From left) The Sultan of Kedah with Brunei King Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Terengganu Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin (partly hidden) and Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir at the Jubli Perak celebration of the Raja of Perlis on April 17.

The Kedah royal family at the opening ceremony of the First Meeting of the Third Session of the Kedah State Legislative Assembly on April 20

His Royal Highness distributing aid to fire victims at Tanjung Dawai, Kuala Muda, on Jan 7. A fire gutted 13 houses in this coastal village on Jan 6.

The monarch together with Tunku Mahkota Kedah Tunku Shazuddin Ariff and Tunku Puan Mahkota Kedah Che Puan Nur Julie Ariff at the state-level Chinese New Year celebration in Alor Setar on Feb 16.

His Royal Highness officiated the grand launch of Aurelius Hospital, which is the biggest private hospital in Alor Setar on Feb 15. — Courtesy of Aurelius Hospital Alor Setar

The Sultan underwent cadet training at the India Military Academy in Dehradun, which he described as "the military institution that became one's pride for life".

The Sultan (back row, third from left) posing with his comrades during the Young Officers' Tactical Course at Port Dickson in 1965.

The Sultan with a fellow officer at the Battalion Tactical Headquarters in Simpang Tiga, Sebatik Island in Sabah in 1964.