

StarSpecial

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DAULAT TUANKU

Well wishes for a beloved King

Malaysians celebrate the official birthday of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah today.



Dear to the people's hearts

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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YANG di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah has been described as a King that is close the people and perfectly portrays the saying "Raja dan rakyat berpisah tiada" (a close relationship between royalty and the people).

His Majesty's caring and down-to-earth demeanour and closeness to his subjects is nothing new, especially to the people of Pahang.

On social media, pictures and videos showing the Agong's caring nature – for example, setting aside royal protocol to help victims of road accidents or disasters – have gone viral on quite a few occasions.

In 2019, the King, dressed in full regalia, had stopped his entourage and was seen exiting the car along with several uniformed officers to ask if the car accident victim was alright. Sultan Abdullah also spoke briefly with the victim.

More recently, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was seen going to the ground when floods hit the city near the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL).

His Majesty was there to personally inspect the flood situation, demonstrating his attention and care for his subjects.

The King was even pictured holding an umbrella himself without any escorts.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, together with Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah and close family members had joined congregants in breaking fast at Padang Majlis Bandaraya Kuantan during Ramadan.

Their Majesties were also seen distributing bubur lambuk which was prepared at Istana Abdulaziz, Kuantan, to the people nearby.

During their visit to Melaka, their Majesties were also seen buying some food at the Ramadan bazaar in Peringgit.

Sultan Abdullah further showed his thoughtfulness by issuing congratulatory messages to Malaysians through the Istana Negara's social media channels to commend them on their every achievement.

During major celebrations such as Christmas, Chinese New Year and Wesak Day, both their Majesties will also issue statements to mark the occasion and extend greetings to those celebrating.

Sultan Abdullah was installed as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong in a ceremony at Istana Negara on July 30, 2019.



People greeting Sultan Abdullah at the Anak-Anak Malaysia Walk to celebrate National and Malaysia Day organised by Star Media Group and EcoWorld in 2019.

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Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah helping to cook bubur lambuk during a programme organised by the Istana Negara Sports and Welfare Club at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama



Sultan Abdullah visited flood victims in the flood-affected district of Lipis.



The King with an old friend after a breaking of fast event in Kuantan, in May 2019. — NIK NAIZI HUSIN/The Star



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah serving food to flood victims at a relief centre in Pekan. — Photo courtesy of Istana Negara's Facebook page

Dirgahayu

Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations



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

D.K.P., D.K.M., D.K., D.M.N., S.S.A.P., S.I.M.P., D.K.(Terengganu), D.K.(Johor),
 S.P.M.J., D.K.M.B.(Brunei), D.K.(Kedah), D.K.(Perlis), D.K.(Perak), D.K.(Selangor).

on the Occasion of

His Majesty's Official Birthday

on

6th June 2022 (6 Zulkaedah 1443H)

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 of



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Official birthday celebration events for the King

SEVERAL events have been lined up in conjunction with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's official birthday celebration this year.

On June 2, a Yassin prayer recital and doa selamat ceremony was held in conjunction with His Majesty's official birthday

celebration at Masjid Wilayah Persekutuan, Kuala Lumpur.

His Majesty also attended a special sermon and performed the Friday prayers at Masjid Wilayah Persekutuan on June 3.

Besides that, Sultan Abdullah delivered a message in conjunction with his official birthday celebration at the Istana Negara,

which was aired live on television and radio on June 5.

The highlight of the celebration will be the presentation of federal awards and medals at the Istana Negara today.

On June 10, the Trooping the Colour ceremony will be held at Dataran Pahlawan Negara in Putrajaya.

Meanwhile, Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah is scheduled to pay a visit to Taska Genius Perpaduan in Taman Sri Rampai, Kuala Lumpur, on June 9.

Last year, all events in conjunction with the official birthday of the Yang di-Pertuan

Agong scheduled to take place were postponed.

The postponement was based on the royal consent of His Majesty after taking into consideration public safety and health, as well as to protect the lives of the rakyat in order to stop the Covid-19 pandemic from worsening.



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah with their children (from left) Tengku Ahmad Ismail Muadzam Shah, Tengku Muhammad Iskandar Ri'ayatuddin Shah, Tengku Amir Nasser, Tengku Mahkota Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah, Tengku Puteri Iman Afzan, Tengku Puteri Ilisha Ameera, Tengku Puteri Ilyana, Tengku Puteri Afzan Aminah Hafizatullah and Tengku Puteri Jihan Azizah 'Athiyatullah.
— Photo courtesy of Istana Negara



The King visiting landslide victims at a temporary evacuation centre in Palimbayan Indah, Kampung Sungai Penchala, in December 2021.
— AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah gracing the launch of the Nicol David Organisation in Bukit Jalil recently. Present were national athlete Nicol David and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu.
— AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



The King greeting Royal Malaysian Air Force officers during RMAF's 64th anniversary celebration at the Subang Air Base recently.
— Bernama



Sultan Abdullah presenting a mock key to Abdul Aziz Mat Sohor, 62, for his new house in Sungai Sia, Mukim Batu Talam, in May. Abdul Aziz was one of the recipients of a new home under a Yayasan Al-Sultan Abdullah programme after his previous home was destroyed by floods.
— Bernama

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Their Majesties visiting the Malaysian High Commission in London. — Photo courtesy of Istana Negara's Facebook page



Sultan Abdullah presenting national women's wushu athlete Tan Cheong Min with the Sportswoman of the Year's trophy at the 2019-2020 National Sports Award in March this year. Present were (from left) Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Faizal Azumu, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ti Lian Ker. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

Humble and high-calibre Ruler

By RAHIMY RAHIM
rahimyr@thestar.com.my

YANG di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah is known for being a humble, wise and high-calibre Ruler as well as a keen sportsman.

Deputy Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Zahidi Zainul Abidin said the King is very close to his subjects regardless of their background.

"Tuanku is easily approachable and the rakyat can discuss any issues with him directly," he said in an interview.

Zahidi added that the King has in-depth understanding of social, economic, political and sports matters.

"Based on my experience, Tuanku has vast experience in handling many roles that showcase his true leadership, especially when he is involved in sports associations like football," he noted.

Sultan Abdullah served as president of the Football Association of Malaysia between 2014 and 2017.

"When I was holding the Malaysian Chess Federation (MCF) president post, the King showed great interest in the game and gave ideas on how to develop the sector in the country," said Zahidi, who is MCF's former president.

"There is no barrier between the King and his rakyat. In his heart, Tuanku will always put the interest of the country first," added Zahidi.

During the Covid-19 pandemic and natural disasters such as floods, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong were among the first to help those in need.

"Their Majesties' exemplary leadership must be learned and respected by all levels of the community," Zahidi said.

MCA spokesperson Chan Quin Er said in times of political instability, Sultan Abdullah was able to stabilise a divided nation and preserve its unity by wielding his moral authority with care and tact.

"The King exerted his authority in a prudent and suitable manner, and still does. The King regularly visits his subjects after disasters such as floods and car accidents, showing that he really cares.

"Tuanku also encourages his subjects to better themselves by emphasising the importance of education and excellence," noted Chan.



Sultan Abdullah and his son, Pahang Regent Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah Al-Sultan Abdullah, gracing a Chinese New Year dinner hosted by LBS Bina in February at the Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur. Looking on is LBS Bina executive chairman Tan Sri Lim Hock San.



Chan says the King stabilised a divided nation by wielding his moral authority with care.



Syed Saddiq says Sultan Abdullah's wisdom has enabled peace in tumultuous times.

"Tuanku makes obvious efforts to congratulate his subjects on their achievements – Malaysian Harvard students, competition winners, teachers who win awards and others – nothing deserving of congratulations escapes his notice. This way, Tuanku was able to comfort the nation and preserve its unity during the pandemic.

"The King also serves as the nation's mentor and conscience. Tuanku possesses all the basic characteristics of kingly behaviour. The King continues to be a reassuring presence who transcends day-to-day conflicts with his royal persona.

"Tuanku exudes virtues includ-

ing peace, harmony, loyalty, discipline, sincerity, generosity and moderation through his speeches, public appearances and regal rites," said Chan.

Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah also contributes to the preservation of the King's reputation through her humility and gentleness, she added.

Muar MP Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman said he was grateful to be able to serve under the King, who has steered Malaysia out of many crisis zones.



The King presenting a donation to an underprivileged child during a programme at Masjid Kampung Kuala Penor in Kuantan in June last year. — Photo courtesy of Istana Negara's Facebook page

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Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah attending the 62nd National Day parade in Putrajaya in 2019. — NORAFIFI EHSAN / The Star

A true leader of the people

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“Tuanku’s wisdom and consultative approach have gotten us peace and stability in tumultuous times.

“The Constitution has always been a reference point by Tuanku during these challenging times. Malaysia has benefited a lot from this,” said Syed Saddiq.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the King is a natural born leader.

“His Majesty has adapted very well when it comes to empathising with all levels of Malaysian society. Tuanku is able to feel the pulse, recognise their aspiration and comprehend the rakyat’s fears. You cannot do this if you lack empathy and are unable to tune in to what is happening on the ground,” said Najib.

“The fact that Tuanku can easily engage in conversation with the common people and set aside royal protocols, even stopping by the roadside to buy local delicacies from small business owners, or stopping to help a road accident victim, shows Tuanku’s genuine

interest in and concern for the common folk,” added Najib.

The Pekan MP also noted that the constitutional monarchy is the “glue” that binds Malaysians of all backgrounds together.

“His Majesty is rightly the object of loyalty and affection of all Malaysians. That is the way it should be. We must not forget that the second pillar of the Rukun Negara is Loyalty to the King and country,” he added.

Najib, who is the former Pahang Menteri Besar, said Sultan Abdullah was already the Crown Prince of Pahang when he was holding the Menteri Besar post.

“I was Tuanku’s neighbour in Pekan when Tuanku was the Crown Prince, as my ancestral home has always been beside Tuanku’s.

“As the MP of Pekan since 1976 and as the Orang Kaya Indera Shah Bandar (one of four highest ranking royal nobles of Pahang), I am humbled and greatly honoured to say our relationship is not new.

“My late father was also a close

friend of his late father,” said Najib.

He added that the constitutional monarchy must be preserved as it is the vital foundation of national unity and stability.

“We must learn and support His Majesty in his quest to see Malaysians united.

“In this scenario, a peaceful coexistence based on the celebration of diversity is the norm and not the exception,” said the former prime minister.

He also wished Sultan Abdullah a long and prosperous reign.

“I wish Tuanku the very best of health and that Malaysia under his reign will realise new heights and reach greater milestones.

“Malaysia will prosper by providing better-paying jobs for all those who seek them, first-class yet affordable healthcare and an education system that will prepare our future generation to thrive in a robust and green economy with equal opportunities for all.

“May Allah always protect the King and Her Majesty the Queen and their family,” said Najib.

How is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong elected?

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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THOUGH Malaysia does not practise an absolute monarchy, its Yang di-Pertuan Agong is elected by the Conference of Rulers for a term of five in a unique rotational system.

The Agong is elected from among the Malay Rulers by the Conference of Rulers. The method and manner of the election is clearly prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Constitution as well as the Regulations of the Conference of Rulers.

After the completion of his term, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong will be succeeded by another monarch based on the same selection system.

According to the official website of the Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal office, there are several eligibility criterias for the appointment of a ruler as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong by the Conference of Rulers.

Firstly, only a Ruler may be elected if he consents to be elected, and only Malay Rulers are allowed to vote.

If a Ruler is unable to attend the Election Meeting, he may appoint another Ruler as proxy to cast his vote.

Traditionally, the selection follows an order based on the seniority of each Ruler in terms of length of reign.

This rule no longer applies after all state rulers have taken their turn as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The first cycle ended with the appointment of the Sultan of Perak as the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

A newly restructured list is currently in place, which is based on the seniority of the state whose Ruler has held the office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (the first to the ninth) in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Federal Constitution.

Schedule Three of the Federal Constitution also provides that a Ruler is not eligible for election as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong if:

- > The Ruler is a minor; or
- > The Ruler has notified the Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal that he



Sultan Abdullah with the Keris Panjang Diraja, which symbolises the power source and centralisation of power entrusted to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, during his installation ceremony at Istana Negara in July 2019. By His Majesty’s side is Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah. — Bernama

does not wish to be elected; or

> The Conference of Rulers by a secret ballot resolves that the Ruler is unsuitable by reason of infirmity of mind or body, or for any other cause, to exercise the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The resolution requires at least five members of the Conference to vote in favour of it.

There are also several steps prior to the election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

A consent must be reached for the date of the Election Meeting.

If vacancies occur in the offices of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the election shall not be later than four weeks from the dates when the offices fall vacant.

The Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal shall seek the consent of each Ruler to be nominated for election as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The Ruler who does not desire to be elected shall notify the Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal in writing and the state shall be transferred to the end of the nomination list.

On the Election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong’s proceedings, when the Conference of Rulers convenes to select the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Governors shall not be present although they are members of the Conference.

The election is carried out by a secret ballot using unnumbered ballot papers but marked with the same pen and ink.

The ballot papers are then inserted into the ballot box. As soon as the result of the election is announced, the ballot papers are destroyed (burned/shredded) in the presence of the Rulers.

The Ruler with the shortest reign, who is not listed as a candidate for the office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, is appointed to count the ballot papers together with the Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal.

In the Election Meeting, only the Rulers, the Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal and the Assistant Secretary to the Conference of Rulers are involved in the election process.

During the election process, the Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal distributes the ballot paper with only one candidate and each Ruler is requested to indicate whether the candidate is suitable to be elected as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The nominee must obtain a majority of five votes before the Ruler presiding over the Election Meeting offers him the office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

If the successful nominee declines the offer or the nominated Ruler fails to obtain the required majority votes, the voting process is repeated with the nomination of the second most senior Ruler in the seniority list of Rulers.

The process is completed only after the Ruler has accepted the offer of office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The Conference then declares the Ruler as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to hold office for a term of five years.

The Malay Rulers who are qualified to select and hold the position as Malaysia’s Head of State are the Yang Di-Pertuan Besar Negeri

Sembilan, the Sultan of Selangor, Raja of Perlis, the Sultan of Terengganu, the Sultan of Kedah, the Sultan of Kelantan, the Sultan of Pahang, the Sultan of Johor and the Sultan of Perak.

Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri’ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah was officially installed as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong in a majestic ceremony steeped in royal custom and tradition at Istana Negara on July 30, 2019.

According to Article 37(1) of the constitution, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall, before exercising his functions, take and subscribe the oath of office.

The oath of office must be signed before the Conference of Rulers with two Rulers as witnesses and in the presence of the Chief Justice of the Federal Court.

In the event that the Chief Justice of the Federal Court is unable to attend, the next senior judge of the Federal Court shall take his place.

The oath of office must also be signed by the two Rulers appointed for that purpose by the Conference of Rulers.

Dirgahayu

Merafak Sembah dan Setinggi-Tinggi Ucapan Tahniah



**KEBAWAH DULI YANG MAHA MULIA
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG
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sempena

**Sambutan Ulang Tahun Hari Keputeraan Rasmi
Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku**

pada

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History of an esteemed institution

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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MANY existing palace traditions and royal customs have a long history that can be traced as far back as the Melaka Sultanate.

Although the Melaka Sultanate is not considered the oldest Sultanate, as the Kedah Sultanate was founded around the 13th century, it has played a significant historical role in shaping the country's monarchy system.

The Melaka Sultanate has also played a role in establishing and strengthening many of the present sultanates, according to the Istana Negara website.

Of the nine existing sultanates, only the Perak Sultanate has a direct link to the Melaka Sultanate as it was established from the Melaka Sultanate before it fell to the Portuguese in 1511.

The Kedah Sultanate, which once enjoyed the protection of the Melaka Sultanate, possesses royal regalia including nobat instruments presented by the Melaka Sultanate, based on historical records.

The Selangor Sultanate, although founded by the Bugis in the 18th century, was given recognition by the Perak Sultanate, which had direct links to the rulers of Melaka.

Other sultanates such as Johor, Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu emerged after the lineage of the Melaka Sultanate died out.

They had filled the void left by the Melaka Sultanate after it fell to the Portuguese and continued the Melaka Sultanate's legacy.



A view of the Istana Raja Melaka. The Melaka Sultanate played a role in establishing and strengthening many of the present sultanates.

The same holds true for Negeri Sembilan, whose Rulers hailed from Sumatera. Thereafter, the British intervened in the Malay states starting with the Pangkor Treaty in 1874 and ending with the British agreement with Johor in 1914.

The position of the Malay Rulers as the sovereign Rulers remained unchanged. This was the position of the Rulers according to the law, even though in reality their independence or sovereignty might not have been absolute.

The present form of constitutional monarchy in Malaysia dates from 1957, when the Federation of Malaya gained independence.

The post of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, also known as the Supreme Head or the King, was established in 1957, having initially been proposed by the Reid Commission as the drafter of the Constitution of

the Federation of Malaya.

The proposal for the Yang di-Pertuan Agong post was made following the objection to the establishment of the Malayan Union, which was seen as an attempt by certain quarters to abolish the Malay royal institution.

In August 1957, after selecting the Yang di-Pertuan Agong title instead of Yang di-Pertuan Besar which was proposed earlier, the Conference of Rulers convened to elect the first one to ascend the throne for the first time.

Based on the seniority of the longest reigning period, the late Sultan of Johor Major-General Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Abu Bakar, who was appointed as Sultan in 1895, was the longest reigning Sultan, but later rejected the appointment due to his old age.

The second in line in the succes-



Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad from Negeri Sembilan, who ascended to the throne in 1933, was appointed as the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

sion was Sultan Sir Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Muadzam Shah Almarhum Sultan Abdullah Al-Mutassim Billah Shah of Pahang who ruled in 1932, but he failed to get a sufficient number of votes from fellow Rulers to be appointed as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The third longest reigning Ruler was Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad from Negeri Sembilan, who ascended the throne in 1933 and was later appointed as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of the Federation of Malaya.

Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah was officially installed as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong in a majestic ceremony steeped in royal custom

and tradition at Istana Negara on July 30, 2019.

According to the Federal Constitution, as the nation's head of state, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong plays a role in the three branches of government, namely executive, legislative and judiciary.

Article 39 of the Constitution stipulates that the executive authority of the Federation shall be vested in the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and exercisable by the King himself or the Cabinet or any minister or any other person authorised by Parliament.

Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim was quoted in Bernama as saying that he was confident that Sultan Abdullah would carry out all of his duties as stipulated under the constitution.

Sultan Abdullah's leadership qualities would come to the fore in cementing the institution of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and constitutional monarchy, added Rais.

Pointing to the fact that the term Yang di-Pertuan Agong is mentioned more than 450 times in the Constitution, he said this alone reflected the crucial role played by the institution in the administration of the nation, as well as ensuring the well-being of the people.

Sultan Abdullah's election as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong created history in the system of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy practised by this country.

This is because the decision pertaining to the election of the Pahang Ruler was made barely a week after he was proclaimed Sultan of Pahang on Jan 15, 2019.

Dirgahayu

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 PEUGEOT

The King's roles and duties

By RAHIMY RAHIM
rahimyr@thestar.com.my

FROM appointing the Prime Minister to dissolving parliament, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has an array of functions and roles as defined under the Federal Constitution.

In a write-up on Malaysia's constitutional monarchy, law expert Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi said the King has a role in all three branches of the government (executive, legal and judiciary), as well as in relation to Islam.

"The vast array of powers vested in the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, if interpreted literally, create the impression that the monarchy is the real seat of power in the country. However, the legal reality is different," he noted.

In terms of his executive role, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the formal head of the executive branch.

"In this capacity, the Agong performs a whole array of crucial political and legal functions like the appointment and dismissal of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet," said Shad Saleem.

The King is the ceremonial supreme commander of the armed forces, he added.

Moreover, he has the power to appoint and remove public servants, members of constitutional Commissions and other special offices under the Constitution.

He also has the power to proclaim an emergency, protect the special position of the Malays and the natives of Sabah and Sarawak, and determine which public authorities should submit accounts to the auditor general.

In relation to the judiciary, though institutionally separate from



As the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Abdullah is the ceremonial supreme commander of the armed forces. — Bernama

the judiciary, the King appoints superior court judges and also removes, retires or suspends them.

He can seek the Federal Court's advisory opinion and grant pardons, reprieves and respites to persons convicted by a court.

In relation to Parliament, the King can summon, prorogue or dissolve, address one or both Houses and appoint 44 nominated senators, Shad Saleem said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong also appoints the clerks to the two Houses. In addition, he can promulgate ordinances during an Emergency except under Article 66(4A), where his assent is needed before a parliamentary Bill becomes law.

"Before giving his assent, he can delay legislation by 30 days," Shad Saleem explained.

In relation to Islam, the King is the head of the religion in eight ter-

ritories – the three federal territories, his home state plus Melaka, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak.

"He is the ceremonial, dignified head of state, but most of the executive power resides with the Prime Minister. This is because of the overriding constitutional provisions in Article 40(1) and 40(1A) that in the exercise of all his functions under the Constitution and laws, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall act on advice save in those areas where the Constitution confers discretion.

"Though he acts on advice, his capacity to delay, moderate and reconcile is undoubted. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the head of state but not the head of government. He reigns but does not rule," explained Shad Saleem.

On the uniqueness of the federal royal institution, he described it as a rich blend of British conventions



The position of monarch is rotational under a complex system detailed in the Third Schedule, says Shad Saleem.

and Malay royal traditions.

"The unique rotational system is grounded in Negri Sembilan's history of customary Chiefs (Undang) of the various districts (Luak) taking turns to occupy the post of Yang di-Pertuan Besar.

"The office of the federal Yang di-Pertuan Agong exhibits many other unique features," he said.

The monarch is elected by and from amongst the Rulers of the nine Malay states. The position is rotational under a fascinatingly complex system detailed in the Third Schedule. The post is not permanent. The King is elected for a period of five years and cannot be re-elected to a consecutive term.

In addition to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, there is a deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong who acts on behalf of the King if the monarch is unable to exercise his functions due

to illness or absence.

But if the monarch dies in office, the deputy does not become King automatically, nor does he fill out the remainder of the deceased sovereign's term. He fills the breach until the Conference of Rulers elects a new King and deputy.

Unlike in the United Kingdom, where the monarchy knows of no break and a new monarch's accession is always backdated to the date of the previous sovereign's demise, in Malaysia a time lapse may exist between the end of one reign and the start of another.

Under the Federal Constitution, the King suffers from several legal disabilities. For example, as long as he is the federal monarch, he cannot exercise his functions as State Ruler except in regard to his role as head of Islam, amendments to his State Constitution and the appointment of a Regent or Council of Regency.

Since 1993, the King has enjoyed no immunity in civil or criminal law. The King is removable from office in three direct or indirect ways:

> Dismissal by the Conference of Rulers – a unique provision of accountability of the King to his brother Rulers.

> If he ceases to be the ruler of his State in accordance with the Constitution of his State.

> If he is charged with a criminal offence in the Special Court, he is suspended temporarily from office. If acquitted, he resumes office.

> If convicted, he may be pardoned by the Conference of Rulers. If not pardoned, presumably he loses his office.

Dirgahayu

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on the Occasion of

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on

6th June 2022 (6 Zulkaedah 1443H)

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pada

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Symbol of royal legacy and glory

By RAHIMY RAHIM
rahimyr@thestar.com.my

IN the olden days since the Melaka Sultanate, the Malay royal palaces not only served as the main dwellings for the Ruler and his family, but played other prominent roles such as centres of intellectual discourse and dissemination of education.

Based on historical records, the palaces were spaces of intellectual discourse and translation of Arabic literature and royal records.

The Istana Negara, or the National Palace, serves as an important historical legacy of Malaysia's national heritage and culture.

The National Palace, which spreads across 97.65ha of land in Jalan Duta, Kuala Lumpur, is the centrepiece of the country's constitutional monarchy, the position of Islam as the religion of state and other aspects that define the nation's identity.

Consisting of three main components – formal, royal and administration – the palace also houses other facilities such as a surau that can accommodate up to 1,000 worshippers, security office, elevated roads, a visitors square, underground parking, a multi-purpose hall, a medical treatment room, a helicopter pad, stables and sports facilities including a swimming pool.

Distinctively standing out with two large gold domes, the palace has a total of 22 domes which resemble an arrangement of sireh



The Istana Negara in Jalan Duta, Kuala Lumpur, is the centrepiece of the country's constitutional monarchy.
— RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

(betel nut) leaves.

Each suite and royal hall is distinctively decorated with traditional Malay-themed ornate carvings, drawings and designs that incorporate Islamic features.

Islamic elements are also evident in the three-dimensional geometry, carvings of Quranic verses and lamps used throughout the palace,

especially in the surau.

At the main lobby, visitors will find themselves standing under a dome that is 40m above ground – as high as a 10-storey building – fitted with a magnificent chandelier specially made in Kuala Selangor.

The massive dome is surrounded by large round pillars with eight

paintings depicting the country's history from the Melaka Sultanate to the present time.

The Istana Negara has suites and halls built for specific uses and purposes.

The Balairong Seri, or the main throne room, has been used for official functions, including ceremonial occasions of taking the

royal pledge, the installation ceremony of a new elected King and the appointment of a new prime minister and the federal government.

Other formal occasions held here include investiture ceremonies and the taking of oaths by the government ministers and state governors. This is also where the presentation and acceptance of foreign diplomatic appointments are held. It also sometimes serves as a banquet hall.

The iconic royal throne room is finely decorated with Malay traditional carvings and calligraphy of Quranic verses from handiwork of famous woodcarving masters from Kelantan and Terengganu.

The royal section of the palace is specially designed for the use of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Raja Permaisuri Agong and other members of the royal family.

It consists of bedrooms, the King's office, dining and living rooms, as well as rooms for royal guests.

The well-manicured and landscaped garden is an equally prominent feature of the royal palace. The Istana Negara in Jalan Duta started operations on Nov 11, 2011, during Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin's tenure as the nation's 13th King.

Previously, the official residence of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was located at Istana Negara Lama along Jalan Istana.

> SEE PAGE 18



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Sempena
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Hari Isnin 6 Jun 2022 bersamaan 6 Zulqad'ah 1443

"Semoga Allah SWT Memberkati Pemerintahan Seri Paduka Baginda Tuanku"

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> FROM PAGE 16



Mounted royal guards returning to base at the end of their shift at the palace grounds. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star



(Top) Police officers stationed at the front gate of Istana Negara. (Left) Guards on duty outside the palace. — AZHAR MAHFOF & RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

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A turret at the palace casting its shadow over the pool area.



One of the stately audience rooms within the palace.

Mix of old and modern charm

By **RAHIMY RAHIM**
rahimyr@thestar.com.my

ISTANA Melawati, perched on the highest peak in Putrajaya, is the second national palace of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

According to the Istana Negara website, construction of the palace began in 1999 and was completed in 2002. Its design is based on a resort concept and it serves as a retreat palace for the King.

In Bahasa Malaysia, the word melawati literally means “guard’s tower”. The name of the palace was given by the former Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah of Selangor.

Located at an altitude of 125m above sea level, the view from this palace encompasses nearly all of Putrajaya.

Istana Melawati has been used for the purpose of conferring federal awards, medals and Orders at the federal territory level of the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Royal Malaysian Police, among others.

The palace has also been the meeting place for heads of governments and states chaired by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Its design reflects its status as the country’s first modern palace,

making full use of the value and adaptation based on traditional royal Malay heritage and designs.

The palace comprises four main components: the Royal Wing, which comprises the private quarters; the Reception Wing, where the Ceremonial Reception Hall is located; the Banquet Wing for functions; and the administrative office blocks.

The three tall towers form a prominent structure at the side and centre of the palace.

These towers represent the old guard towers that were commonly found in olden-day Malay palaces.

The three tiered roofs with intricate eaves details and clay buah butong (appendages at the corners of the roof) represent an authentic attempt to replicate Malay traditional roof designs of the east coast.

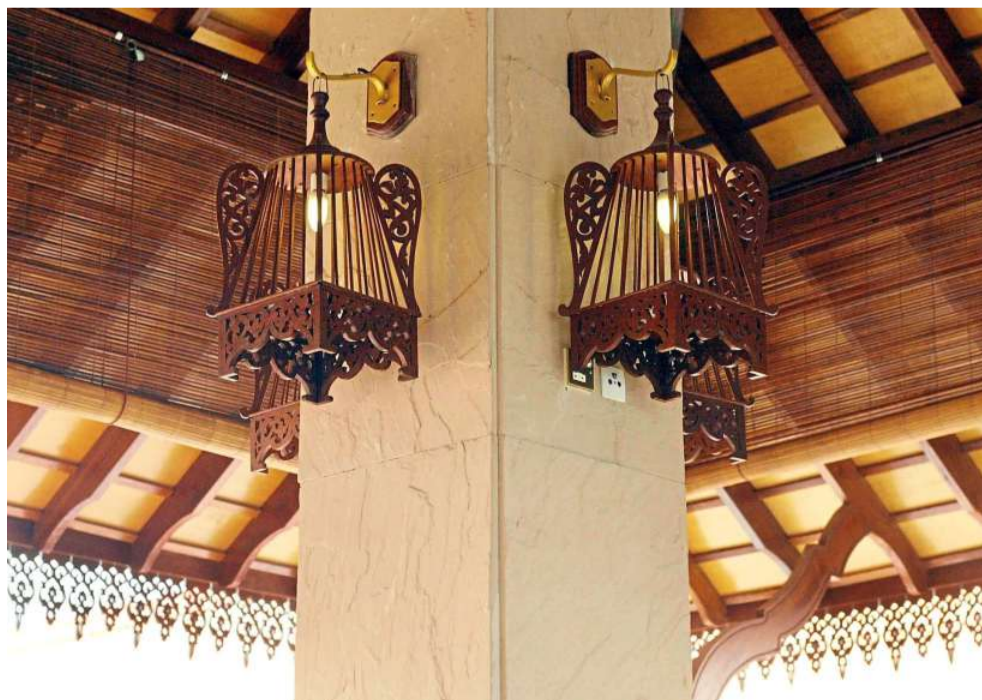
At the main staircase of the Reception Wing is a Melawati made from chengal wood and topped with a golden roof.

In terms of interior, the Royal Wing consists of the royal bedroom, royal resting room, royal banquet room as well as the office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong.

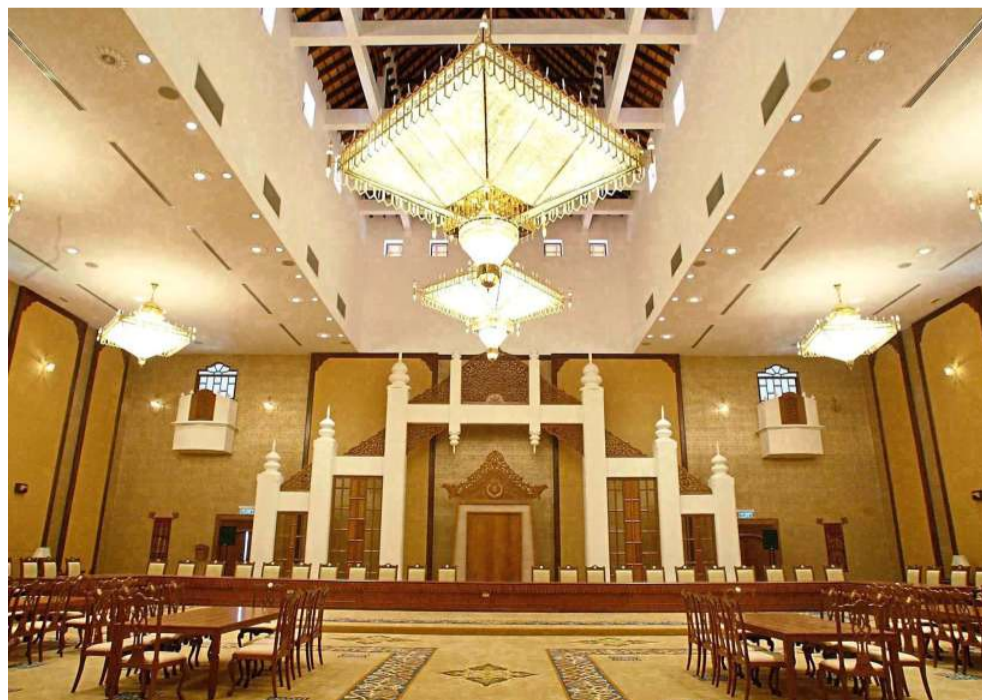
It is also equipped with a royal swimming pool, a royal kitchen as well as a royal guest house.



If this view seems like something out of a postcard, it exists in reality in the form of the King’s retreat palace, Istana Melawati in Putrajaya.



The grasshopper cage (sangkar belalang) design, which dates back to olden-day Malay palaces, is among the traditional designs revived at Istana Melawati.



Istana Melawati has been the meeting place for heads and governments and states chaired by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

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(From left) The Tengkolok Diraja (Royal Headdress), the Gendik Diraja (Royal Tiara) and the Muskat worn by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on special occasions.

Royal regalia steeped in tradition

By RAHIMY RAHIM
rahimyr@thestar.com.my

THE royal regalia of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and his consort the Raja Permaisuri Agong are symbols of the splendour, authority and supremacy of the country's constitutional monarchy.

The royal regalia collection has been used for many generations, especially during coronations and special ceremonies such as the opening of parliament sessions.

Malaysia's monarchy has unique royal regalia that have been passed down from Ruler to Ruler since the country gained independence.

According to historical records, the Malay Rulers took their royal regalia with them to wars, on hunting expeditions and even when travelling.

Among the most revered items deemed symbolic in the Malay royal regalia are the weapons, attire and sceptres. During the installation ceremony, the King will wear the official ceremonial dress known as the Muskat, complete with the royal headdress, buckle and short dagger, which are part of the royal regalia.

The Muskat is a long, black robe adorned with golden embroidery. Its design is inspired by the traditional outfit of the people of Oman and Kedah's baju sipak, the official dress of the state officials, according to the Istana Negara website.

The Muskat is the official attire of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and is only worn on certain occasions, including the installation ceremony, His Majesty's birthday, during his official visit to Malaysian states Malaysia and the opening of parliament sessions.

It was first introduced by the third Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the late Tuanku Syed Putra Al-Marhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, during his installation ceremony in the 1960s. The tradition continues to this day.

Another item is the royal headdress known as the Tengkolok

Diraja, which is made of black songket and embroidered with gold thread.

For centuries, the Malay Rulers have worn the royal headdresses as part of tradition and it eventually came to be the replacement for a crown.

The Tengkolok Diraja is folded and tied in the Dendam Tak Sudah style originated from Negri Sembilan. Its style is inspired by the elective monarchical system.

The style of the royal folding varies depending on the tradition of the royal family of each royal house.

Affixed at the front of the royal headdress is an ornament – made from platinum – in the shape of a crescent and a 14-pointed star with Malaysia's coat of arms in the centre.

Another part of the Agong's ceremonial attire is the Pending Diraja (Royal Waist Buckle) and the Keris Pendek Diraja (Royal Short Dagger).

The buckle is made of pure gold and decorated with rubies with an engraved centrepiece featuring Malaysia's crest. The belt is made of ribbed silk and features floral motifs embroidered in gold thread.

The Keris Pendek Diraja is made out of steel sourced from old daggers and features a hilt and sheath made of ivory and engraved in gold.

Its hilt, known as the Hulu Pekaka, is shaped like the head of the legendary garuda bird.

Like the Keris Panjang Diraja (Royal Long Dagger), the Keris Pendek Diraja is only worn by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The Keris Panjang Diraja's hilt and sheath are covered in gold with the emblem of Malaysia and that of the 11 states of Peninsular Malaysia engraved on the cross piece.

The blade is forged from steel taken from 11 keris from all 11 states and the hilt is shaped like a horse's hoof.



The Pedang Diraja (Royal Sword) and Sundang Diraja (Royal Sword – Keris) also form part of the royal regalia.



The Keris Pendek Diraja is made of steel from old daggers, with a hilt shaped like the garuda bird's head.



The Cokmar comprises two maces, each with a circular-fluted orb made of silver.

It features decorations similar to the jering fruit.

The royal regalia also includes the royal sceptres, namely Cogan Alam (Sceptre of the Universe) and Cogan Agama (Sceptre of Religion).

Cogan Alam is a silver mace measuring 162.66cm in length.

At the head of the mace is an orb on which is a crescent and a 11-pointed star made of gold are surmounted, symbolising Islam as the main religion of the country.

The orb is also decorated with the crests of the 11 states in the peninsula. These are also made of gold and supported by four tigers which symbolise national bravery.

The shaft itself features six stalks of paddy carved in gold.

Meanwhile, Cogan Agama is 155.04cm long and made of silver. It consists of a large, conical head with a five-pointed star made of gold mounted on a long shaft.

Quranic verses are embossed on the head and shaft.

For the Raja Permaisuri Agong, the unique royal regalia include the Gendik Diraja (Royal Tiara) and Kalung Diraja (Royal Necklace).

The Gendik Diraja is made of platinum and encrusted with diamonds, featuring the traditional awan larat motifs.

Set at the centre of the tiara is a crescent and a star, also made of platinum. The tiara was specially designed so that it can be taken apart to form a locket and brooch.

The Royal Necklace, which is also made out of platinum and fully studded with diamonds, can also be taken apart to form a pair of earrings and ear studs, as well as a brooch.

Other royal regalia items include the Cokmar, Pedang Diraja (Sword), Keris Panjang Diraja (Long Dagger) and Sundang Diraja

(a type of dagger).

The Cokmar, a symbol of the power and authority of the Malaysian government, consist of a pair of maces featuring a short staff and a dome-shaped head made of silver. Each mace is an estimated 81.32cm in length.

The Keris Panjang Diraja and Sundang Diraja have carved silver-coated hilts and sheaths.

Other symbols of royalty that play an important role at official ceremonies are the seven-metre long Payung Ubur-Ubur Kuning (Yellow Dome-Shaped Umbrella) and Tombak Berambu (a type of spear).

The umbrella is made of yellow silk and features a 11-pointed star and crescent on its top.

The blade of the Tombak Berambu is forged from the metal of ancient spears used all over the peninsula.

Dirgahayu

SALUTATIONS AND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS



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

D.K.P., D.K.M., D.K., D.M.N., S.S.A.P., S.I.M.P., D.K.(Terengganu), D.K.(Johor),
S.P.M.J., D.K.M.B.(Brunei), D.K.(Kedah), D.K.(Perlis), D.K.(Perak), D.K.(Selangor).

on the Occasion of

His Majesty's Official Birthday

on

6th June 2022 (6 Zulkaedah 1443H)

with utmost sincerity from



T.A.S. INDUSTRIES SDN BHD (17430-P)
No.15, Jalan Ru, Off Jalan Ampang
55000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-4251 4833 Fax: 03-4251 4867



TINDAKAN MEWAH SDN BHD (741628-U)
No.15, Jalan Ru, Off Jalan Ampang
55000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-4260 1781 Fax: 03-4260 1782



SHAHZAN INN BUKIT FRASER
Jalan Lady Guillemard, 49000 Bukit Fraser,
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Tel: 09-362 2300



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Tel : 03-2287 6788

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Lot 346 B Level 3,
Suria KLCC,
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50088 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : 03-2164 1400

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G-17, Ground Floor, Empire Shopping Gallery,
Jalan SS 16/1, 47500 Subang Jaya,
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47800 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan
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Tel : 03-7832 2298

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Lot G-19, Ground Floor,
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Tel : 03-4050 2740

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No.7, Persiaran Setia Dagang, Bandar Setia Alam,
Sek U13, 40170 Shah Alam, Selangor
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with utmost sincerity from:

Ranhill Utilities Berhad	201401014973 (1091059-K)
Ranhill SAJ Sdn. Bhd.	199901001818 (476718-H)
Ranhill Capital Sdn. Bhd.	201401034295 (1110393-P)
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on the Occasion of

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on

6th June 2022 (6 Zulkaedah 1443H)

with utmost sincerity from:

**The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of
KUALA LUMPUR KEPONG BERHAD**

