StarSpecial
THE STAR, MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021
DAULAT TUANKU

Warm wishes for the King

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



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
7th June 2021 (26 Syawal 1442H)

with utmost sincerity from:

PETRONAS

PETROLIAM NASIONAL BERHAD (PETRONAS) (20076-K)

NOTE: All photos featured in this pullout in which no face masks are worn were taken prior to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Stories by ONG HAN SEAN, RAHIMY RAHIM and JO TIMBUONG

Sage king with a heart of gold

THE past year has been a tumultuous one with the country facing the Covid-19 pandemic.

During this time, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah has performed his role as a voice of reason and unity for Malaysians. In particular, the King had continuously called for the people's cooperation and patience in fighting the pandemic.

In his recent Hari Raya Aidilfitri message, Sultan Abdullah said he was aware that the people had to comply with various regulations imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19, as well as the grievances of those who had been affected during this period.

His Majesty said he did not want the harmonious society in Malaysia to fade into discord.

"Let's move forward by taking care of our health and complying with all the regulations," His Majesty added.

Sultan Abdullah also expressed his appreciation to all Malaysians, regardless of race and religion, who had come together to help fight Covid-19.

His Majesty called on the people to appreciate the contributions, commitment, bravery and sacrifices of the frontliners who worked tirelessly to check the spread of the virus.

Sultan Abdullah noted that it was only through the unity of all Malaysians that the country would be able to curb the pandemic.

Recently, Sultan Abdullah advised the public to stay at home and adhere to the nationwide movement control order.

His Majesty also repeated his advice for the people to prioritise their loved ones and their own safety by being disciplined and obeying all instructions set by the National Security Council.

In managing the pandemic, Sultan Abdullah declared an Emergency in January, to be enforced until Aug 1 or earlier in order to contain the spread of Covid-19 after the number of infections in the country continued to increase.

Sultan Abdullah did not give his assent in October last year when Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin proposed the move, saying there was no need for an Emergency at that time.

> TURN TO NEXT PAGE



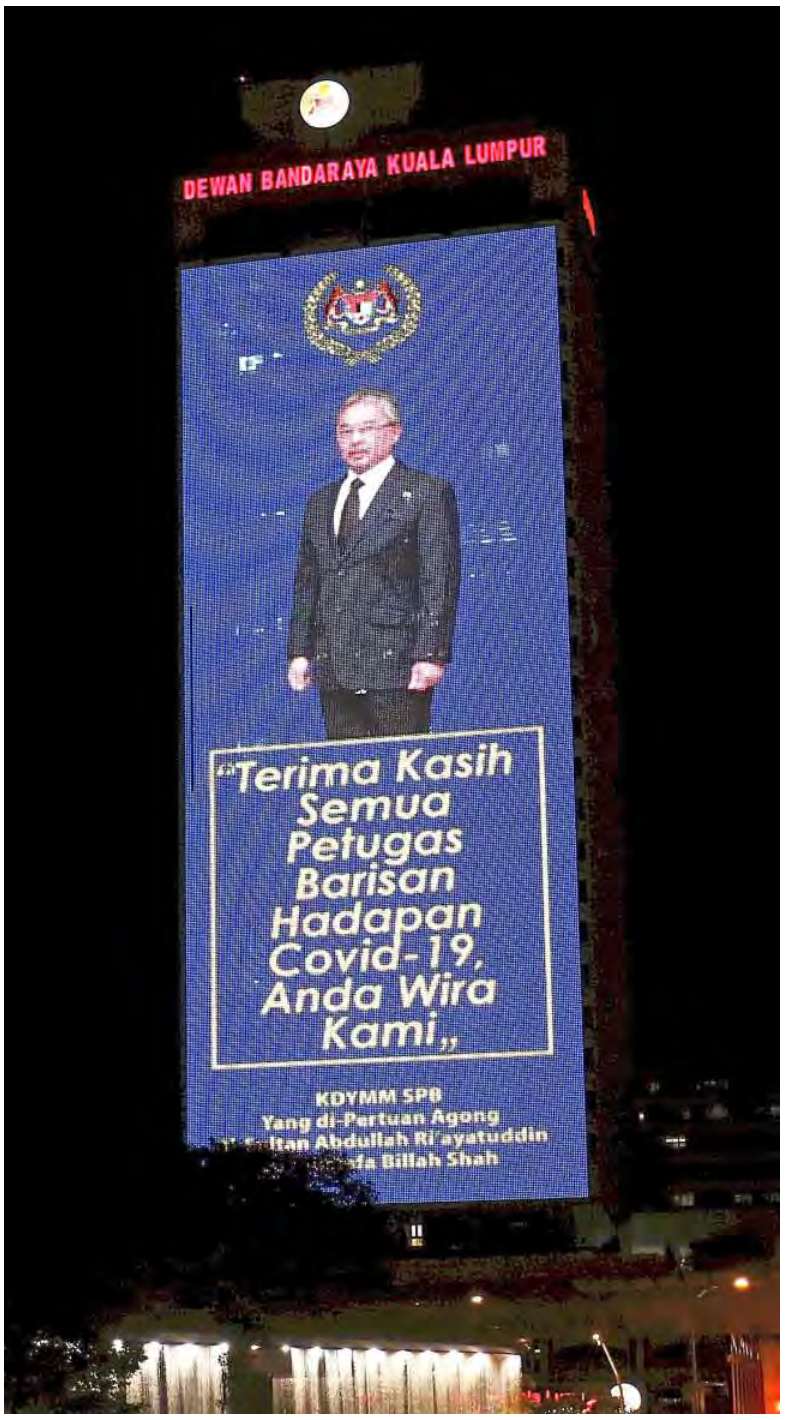
Sultan Abdullah conducting a video call with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri at Istana Negara in April 2020. The King had decreed that all meetings would be held online to maintain physical distancing amid the Covid-19 pandemic. — Photo taken from Istana Negara's Instagram page



The King and his son Tengku Panglima Raja Tengku Amir Nasser Ibrahim Shah (fourth from right) performing Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayers at Istana Negara in May this year. The prayers were carried out with strict adherence to the Covid-19 standard operating procedure set by the National Security Council. — Bernama



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



An electronic billboard outside the Kuala Lumpur City Hall building showing a message from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong thanking frontliners fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

Model of strength for the people

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People saluting as Sultan Abdullah's car reaches Istana Negara ahead of his installation ceremony as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in January 2019. — Art Chen/The Star.



Sultan Abdullah, Tunku Azizah and their children took off their face masks for a quick family photo in front of a mural of the King painted by artist Muhammad Suhaimi Ali on the wall of a building in Klang, Selangor, in July 2020. — KK SHAM/The Star



Sultan Abdullah boarding a boat with Pahang Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail (in light brown cap) to inspect the flood-hit district of Lipis in January this year. — ONG HAN SEAN/The Star



Sultan Abdullah posing for a 'wefie' with guests at a community feast after Friday prayers in Masjid Baru, Temerloh, Pahang, in January 2019. — NIK NAIZI HUSIN/The Star



The King inspecting halal products exhibited during a visit to the Malaysian International Halal Showcase at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in April 2019. — AFIQUE YUSOFF/The Star



The King admiring a scale model of Istana Mangga Tunggal displayed in the Khutubkhanah DiRaja in March this year. Earlier, he was briefed on a proposal to sign memorandums of agreement to set up the Al-Sultan Abdullah Research Centre for Pahang History and Civilisation. — ONG HAN SEAN/The Star

Dirgahayu

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on the Occasion of

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on
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with utmost sincerity from:

Tan Sri Dr Lim Wee Chai (Chairman),
Tan Sri Dato' Tan Chee Sing (Group Executive Vice Chairman),
Board of Directors, Management and Staff of

TROPICANA
CORPORATION BERHAD



Kolej Yayasan Pahang Advanced Skills students showing copies of a recipe book written by Tunku Azizah after the launch of the book in October 2018. — NIK NAIZI HUSIN/The Star



Tunku Azizah honouring underprivileged couples with Tunku Azizah Fertility Foundation sponsorship letters at TAFF's family day in Seri Kembangan, Selangor, in October 2019. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

Warm and loving Queen

THE consort of a Yang di-Pertuan Agong holds the title of Raja Permaisuri Agong, which does not have a stipulated role in the Federal Constitution.

As the consort of Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah automatically assumed the title of Raja Permaisuri Agong when he became the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 2019.

Tunku Azizah was born at Istana Bukit Stulang in Johor Baru on Aug 5, 1960, to Almarhum Sultan Iskandar and Almarhumah Enche' Besar Hajah Khalsom Abdullah.

Her brother Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar is the Sultan of Johor.

Tunku Azizah studied at Sekolah Taman Kanak-Kanak Tunku Ampuan Mariam, Sekolah Rendah Perempuan Sultan Ibrahim and Sekolah Tun Fatimah, Johor Baru.

Her Majesty married Sultan Abdullah in March 1986.

Tunku Azizah is known to be passionate in various fields of the arts, with cooking being one of her favourite activities.

Like the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Raja Permaisuri Agong is not allowed to hold any appointment carrying any remuneration and shall not actively engage in any commercial enterprise.

The Parliament, however, is legally required to provide a Civil List of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong which shall include provision for an annuity to be paid to the Raja Permaisuri Agong.

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Tunku Azizah joining a group of children at a TAFF family day in Seri Kembangan, Selangor, in October 2019. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah viewing the colourful displays during the 62nd National Day parade in Putrajaya in August 2019. — NORAFIFI EHSAN/The Star



Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah taking a photo with a baby T-Rex figurine at the Jurassic Research Centre at The Top, Komtar in George Town, in December 2019. — CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

Dirgahayu

Merafak Sembah dan Setinggi-Tinggi Ucapan Tahniah



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sempena

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

pada
7 Jun 2021 Bersamaan 26 Syawal 1442H

sembah takzim daripada:

Lembaga Pengarah, Pengurusan & Kakitangan

AZRB
AHMAD ZAKI RESOURCES BERHAD
(4 3 2 7 6 8 - X)

Generous and diligent heart

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(Above) Tunku Azizah showed her down-to-earth nature when she boarded the KLIA Express train to catch a flight at the airport in December 2019. — The Star

(Left) Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah arriving at the Bunga Raya complex at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport for a ceremonial welcome ceremony in Parliament in January 2019. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star



The Queen admiring the tenun work done by inmates at Penor Prison, Kuantan, in July 2019. — NIK NAIZI HUSIN/The Star



The Queen sharing cooking tips with the female inmates and staff members of Bentong Prison in Pahang during the 'Beauty Behind The Wall' programme in November 2018. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



Tunku Azizah visiting a patient at the Cheras Rehabilitation Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, in August 2019. — The Star

Dirgahayu

Merafak Sembah dan Setinggi-Tinggi Ucapan Tahniah



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7 Jun 2021 Bersamaan 26 Syawal 1442H

sembah takzim daripada:

YAB Dato' Sri Haji Wan Rosdy Bin Wan Ismail
Menteri Besar Pahang

Kerajaan Negeri Pahang Dan Seluruh
Rakyat Jelata Negeri Pahang Darul Makmur

Dirgahayu

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with utmost sincerity from:

Dato' Sri Dr Vijay Eswaran
Executive Chairman, QI Group of Companies
Wawasan QI Properties Sdn Bhd (733462-W)
Lucky Beach Development Sdn Bhd (262730-A)
Wudani Bay Sdn Bhd (522623-V)

Dirgahayu

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with utmost sincerity from:

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

KLK

History of the Pahang Sultanate



The fifth Pahang Ruler, the late Sultan Ahmad Shah, and his son Sultan Abdullah. — Photo courtesy of the Raja Permaisuri Agong



The Sultan Abu Bakar Museum in Pekan, Pahang, which houses a large collection of ancient Chinese glassware and ceramics previously used by former sultans of Pahang. — NIK NAIZI HUSIN/The Star

MALAYSIA practises an elective monarchy system, which means the Conference of Rulers will select the head of state from among the nine Malay rulers.

The reigning Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah comes from the Pahang Sultanate, whose history dates back centuries.

The current ruling house of the sultanate, however, is fairly recent as this particular ascendancy came into being in 1882, when the Raja Bendahara family consolidated its hegemony over Pahang territory.

The first Sultan of Pahang in this modern era was Wan Ahmad, who emerged victorious in a civil war with his brother and was subsequently proclaimed as Sultan Ahmad Al-Mu'adzam Shah.

Sultan Ahmad's reign ended upon his death in 1914 and he was succeeded by his son Sultan Mahmud.

Sultan Mahmud ruled for three years before his own passing, whereupon another of Sultan Ahmad's sons then ruled as Sultan Abdullah Al-Mu'tassim Billah from 1917 to 1932.

Sultan Abdullah's son then succeeded him as Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah and ruled until 1974.

The late Paduka Ayahanda Sultan Ahmad Shah ruled from then onwards until 2019.

Sultan Ahmad Shah was the first Pahang Ruler to take on the role of Yang di-Pertuan Agong from 1979 to 1984.

In early 2019, the Pahang royal council conducted Sultan Ahmad Shah's abdication due to his ailing health.

His heir was then proclaimed Sultan of Pahang on Jan 15 of that year, taking on the regnal name of Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

On Jan 24, 2019, Al-Sultan Abdullah was elected the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

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with utmost sincerity from:

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT & STAFF

NEWSTON

Newston International Group Sdn Bhd
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Kuantan Waterfront Resort City

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FRANKY Group Of Companies
(76219-M)

Dirgahayu

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MALAYSIA

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A King with great wisdom and foresight

THE institution of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, which was formed as a constitutional monarchy in 1957, is intended to be used as a symbol of sovereignty for the Malay Federation as an independent state.

Constitutional expert Assoc Prof Dr Shamrahayu Abdul Aziz said the institution of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong also serves as the highest pinnacle of the country's administration at the federal level.

"Through the provisions of the Federal Constitution, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the nation's Supreme Head of Federation (Article 32 of the constitution).

"As the head of state, the Constitution stipulates that the executive authority of the Federation shall be vested in him as per Article 39 of the Constitution," she told *The Star* in an interview.

On Jan 24, 2019, the Conference of Rulers during its 251st meeting elected Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Sultan Abdullah took his oath to mark the start of his reign at the Istana Negara on Jan 31, 2019, and throughout the two years of his reign, there have been many challenges.

"Among them was the political uncertainty that led to a change of government in the early part of last year.

"Right after that, there was a huge threat to public health which led to the declaration of Emergency," said Assoc Prof Shamrahayu, who is also the incumbent Institution of the Malay Rulers chair at Universiti Teknologi Mara.



Sultan Abdullah having an audience with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in Istana Negara in October 2020. — Photo courtesy of Istana Negara

For the purpose of this article, Assoc Prof Shamrahayu cited three major events that featured and reflected Sultan Abdullah's type of reign based on the provisions in the Constitution.

Firstly, there was the controversy involving the ratification of the Rome Statute under the Pakatan Harapan government.

Initially, the government had wanted to ratify the statute but later decided to withdraw following the decision made by the Conference of Rulers, which was expressed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to the then prime minister.

Secondly, there was the change of government which was triggered following the decision by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to hand in his resignation. The King later had to appoint a new prime minister.

Thirdly, there was the declaration of Emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The declaration was approved by the King following the start of the pandemic although initially, His Majesty had rejected the proposal by the government.

Prof Shamrahayu said she wanted to highlight the three major events as they involved the interpretation of the Constitution based on the actual current situation.

"Aside from that, the three events attracted high public attention as it was the first time they had happened at the federal level.

"The Yang di-Pertuan Agong had also acted to set a precedent of the relevant provisions in the Constitution," she said.

According to her, during the controversy involving the Rome Statute, Sultan Abdullah had initiated a meeting with his fellow Rulers to discuss its impact on the royal institution and the position of the Constitution.

The government later withdrew and the issue did not prolong, she said.

Prof Shamrahayu added that the announcement by the then prime minister had sparked public discourse involving the role of the King in the process of ratifying international agreements.

"The episode had shown the King's wisdom and great foresight in realising the provisions of the Constitution.

"The situation demonstrated his wisdom and high intelligence in realising the provision of the Constitution and his firmness on important matters involving the position of the royal institution and monarchy in this country.

"He placed the sovereignty of the royal institution at the forefront in handling differences in the approach adopted by the government," she added.

Prof Shamrahayu said the King also managed to bring about stability when the country was facing political uncertainty due to conflict among certain parties.

She said Sultan Abdullah faced a situation that needed to be addressed by interpreting the provisions of the Constitution regarding his powers in determining the new head of the government or appointing the prime minister.

"The general public and the international audiences were watching the development of the situation with full interest.

"The King's wisdom in managing the democratic conflict had ended the episode peacefully.

"Although there were opposing voices, in the end, the situation became less tense," she said.

On the declaration of Emergency to check the spread of Covid-19, Prof Shamrahayu said Sultan Abdullah had initially rejected the suggestion by the government.

She said although there seemed to be a bit of tension between the two parties early on, the situation de-escalated quickly.

"This once again proved a sign of the King's wisdom and resilience in handling differences with the government leadership.

"The wisdom of the King had contributed to the social and political stability of the country," she said.

Prof Shamrahayu said the aspects of Sultan Abdullah's wisdom in managing the relations between the royal institution and the political leaders in interpreting the Constitution while facing political challenges and public health threats must be given due attention.

"Adapting the provisions of the Constitution with the real situation is not an easy task, especially in such a tense political situation," she said.

Enduring legacy of the Malay Sultanates

THE existence of the Malay Sultanates in the country is historically linked to the Melaka Sultanate.

According to Istana Negara's official website, the Melaka Sultanate played a significant role in establishing the current palace traditions which were inherited by subsequent sultanates.

Prior to the establishment of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong post, from the nine existing sultanates, only the Perak Sultanate had 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.

The Selangor Sultanate, although founded by the Bugis in the 18th century, was given recognition by the Perak Sultanate.

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

These sultanates filled the void left by the Melaka Sultanate after it fell to the Portuguese and continued the legacy of the Melaka Sultanate.

The same holds true for Negri Sembilan whose rulers had originated from Sumatra.

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 post of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, also known as the Supreme Head or the King, was established in 1957 following a proposal by the Reid Commission which drafted the Constitution of the Federation of Malaya.



The Melaka Sultanate played a significant role in establishing the current palace traditions which were inherited by subsequent sultanates. — A. MALEX YAHAYA/The Star

The proposal for the Yang di-Pertuan Agong post was made following the objection of 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 choosing the Yang di-Pertuan Agong title instead of the Yang di-Pertuan Besar, which was proposed earlier, the Conference of Rulers convened to elect the first sultan to ascend the throne.

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

The second in line was Sultan Sir Abu Bakar Riayatuddin Al-Muadzam Shah Almarhum Sultan Abdullah Al-Mutassim Billah Shah of Pahang, who ruled in 1932 but failed to get sufficient 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 Negri Sembilan, who ascended the throne in 1933 and was later appointed Yang di-Pertuan Agong of the Federation of Malaya.

The present King, 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 customs and traditions at Istana Negara on Jan 31, 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 Rais Yatim was quoted by Bernama as saying that in carrying out his duties as stipulated in 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.

Pointing to the fact that the term of 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 in ensuring the well-being of the people.

The election of Sultan Abdullah as Yang di-Pertuan Agong has 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.

Dirgahayu

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with utmost sincerity from:

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Dirgahayu

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7th June 2021 (26 Syawal 1442H)

with utmost sincerity from

Y.A.M. Tengku Puteri Seri Kemala Tengku Hajjah Aishah
Binti Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, DK(II), SIMP

Dato' Sri Thong Kok Khee

Board of Directors
Management and Staff

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M & A SECURITIES SDN BHD

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Dirgahayu

Merafak Sembah dan Setinggi-Tinggi Ucapan Tahniah



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

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).,
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sempena

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

pada

7 Jun 2021 Bersamaan 26 Syawal 1442H

sembah takzim daripada:

Sapura

SAPURA (21555-D)

Royal residence with fascinating features



The entrance to Istana Negara, which leads to a well-manicured and landscaped garden. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

THE Istana Negara or the National Palace has served as the official residence of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, as well as the centrepiece of the country's constitutional monarchy system, the symbol of the position of Islam as the religion of state and other aspects that define the nation's identity.

Originally, Istana Negara was located on an 11.34ha compound in Jalan Istana, Bukit Petaling, facing the Klang River.

Now situated in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim (formerly Jalan Duta), it spreads across a total of 97.65ha of land.

Istana Negara started operations in its new location on Nov 11, 2011, during Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin's tenure as the nation's 13th King.

Although it has many uses, including for official events and receptions held by the King, it serves mainly as a symbol of the sovereignty of the Malay Rulers.

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, a 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 in Kuala Lumpur, the palace has a total of 22 domes which are designed to resemble an arrangement of sirih (betel nut) leaves.

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

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

As visitors walk into the main lobby, they will find themselves under a dome that is 40m above ground – as high as a 10-storey building – and 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 Malacca Sultanate era to the present time.

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

The Balairong Seri, or the main throne room, is used for official functions, including the ceremonial occasions of taking the royal pledge, installation ceremony of a new elected King and the appointment of a new prime minister and federal government.

Other formal occasions held here include investiture ceremonies and the taking of oaths by 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 made by renowned 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.

Although it is often seen as an administrative area, it is also a home to the royal family.

The national palace also 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.

Istana Negara has three main entrances, with the main entrance via the multi-storeyed road from Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim reserved for the use of the King and the Queen as well as fellow Malay Rulers and Her Royal Highnesses, and the Yang Di Dipertua Negeri, head of states and governments.

The main entrance also sees the deployment of Royal Guards from the First Battalion of the Malay Regiment.

The second entrance, situated in Jalan Changkat Semantan, is reserved for royal guests and those who are specially invited to events at the palace.

The third entrance, also known as Pintu 3, is located in Jalan Sri Hartamas, Mont Kiara. It is meant for the use of civilians who have business regarding the King and Queen, as well as the administrative staff and guests invited to Istana Negara.



Istana Negara spreads across a total of 97.65ha of land. — ART CHEN/The Star



Mounted palace guards making their way to Istana Negara's entrance in April this year. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

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

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on the Occasion of

His Majesty's Official Birthday

on

7th June 2021 (26 Syawal 1442H)

with utmost sincerity from:

UEM SUNRISE
A member of UEM Group

UEM Sunrise Berhad 200801028815 (830144-W)

How the Agong is appointed

THE Conference of Rulers is a unique institution that chooses the Yang di-Pertuan Agong from among its ranks of nine Malay Rulers.

Although it was officially established in 1948, the Conference had a predecessor in the durbar, where the Rulers and the British administrators would meet during the days of the Federated Malay States.

Following the country's independence, the Conference of Rulers was established in accordance with Article 38 of the Federal Constitution which, among others, stipulated that it would elect Yang di-Pertuan Agong as the head of state.

It would also elect the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Its other functions are to agree or disagree to the extension of any religious acts; observances or ceremonies to the Federation as a whole; consent or withhold consent to any law and making or giving advice on any appointment which requires the consent of the Conference under the Constitution; appoint members of the Special Court; grant pardons, reprieves and respites or remitting, suspending or commuting sentences.

It may also deliberate on matters of national policy and any other matter it deems fit. Its members comprise the hereditary monarchs of the states of Malaysia and the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak.

Only the Rulers of Negri Sembilan, Selangor, Perlis, Terengganu, Kedah, Kelantan, Pahang, Johor and Perak are permitted to stand as candidates and elect the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"The Conference of Rulers is a unique institution that chooses the Yang di-Pertuan Agong from among its ranks of nine Malay Rulers."

The appointment of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has generally followed the tradition of rotation based on the first cycle of nine Rulers to have taken on the mantle.

But the year 2019 saw an unprecedented event that could have broken that tradition when Sultan Muhammad V resigned as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong midway through his five-year term.

The next in line was the then Sultan of Pahang Almarhum Paduka Ayahanda Sultan Ahmad Shah but since he was ill at that time, it would not be suitable for the Conference of Rulers to appoint him as the next Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

This matter was averted when Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah acceded the throne of Pahang with the abdication of Sultan Ahmad Shah, thus making him eligible to become the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.



Sultan Abdullah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Maimunah Iskandariah at the opening ceremony of the second session of the 14th Parliament in March 2019. — AZHAR MAHFOF/THe Star

Dirgahayu

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on the Occasion of

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with utmost sincerity from:

Pembuat Bintang Kebesaran, Pingat dan Cenderahati Kerajaan Persekutuan dan Negeri



ELITKRAF SDN BHD (386949-P)
No. 3, Jalan Permas 9/13, Bandar Baru Permas Jaya, 81750 Masai, Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia.
Tel: 07-387 8369 Fax: 07-387 8370 Website: www.elitkraf.com.my

Dirgahayu

Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations



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with utmost sincerity from:

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Lim Hock San (Executive Chairman)
Board of Directors
Management and Staff

LBS
BELIEVE • BECOME • BEHOLD



Snap and Chat: Sultan Abdullah taking a photo with guests after a banquet at the Top Komtar Banquet Ballroom at The Top, Komtar in George Town, during a visit in December 2019. — CHAN BOON KAI/The Star



Enjoy!: Sultan Abdullah distributing meals to journalists stationed outside the Istana Negara gates as they waited for updates following the political impasse in February 2020. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

Spirit of kindness

WHEN Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah was sworn in as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong in January 2019, he immediately won the hearts of Malaysians with his down-to-earth and compassionate demeanour.

People were often amazed at Sultan Abdullah's knack for setting aside protocol to be with them in both good and bad times.

There were many occasions where Tuanku was spotted assisting accident victims he encountered on his journeys or stopping by a roadside fruit stall to buy fruits. Tuanku charmed the people even more when he was seen queuing up to buy a fast-food meal with his entourage.

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

Last month, Sultan Abdullah congratulated dive queen Pandelela Rinong on winning the gold medal for the 10m platform individual event at the FINA Diving World Cup in Tokyo, and he did the same when shuttler Lee Zii Jia won the All England Badminton Championship title in March.



Choice fruits: Sultan Abdullah selecting fruits from a roadside stall in Kampung Padang, Kuantan, on his way to a ceremony to proclaim city status on the Pahang capital in February this year. — Photo taken from Istana Negara social media

Sultan Abdullah also congratulated students Cheryl Chow Shu Wei for earning the "Top In The World" Award for Chemistry in the International General Certificate of Secondary Education and Pavit Coran, who was crowned champion of the English Speaking Union International Public Speaking Competition.

Tuanku is also not a stranger to bringing comfort to people hit by hardships and disasters.

When floods struck several villages in Pahang earlier this year, Tuanku donned his military fatigues and waded through floodwaters to visit and give aid to the victims.

During this time, Tuanku was accompanied by Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah and they helped to prepare meals for those housed at evacuation centres.

During the political impasse early last year, the King and Queen once again showed their compassion by treating members of the press to a meal after they spent long hours waiting for updates outside the Istana Negara gates.

The King's attentiveness to his people's needs has earned him praises and a special place in their hearts.



Royal compassion: Sultan Abdullah planting a kiss on a child as he hands out packs of food to the homeless during a visit to Masjid Jamek Kuala Lumpur in July 2019. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star



Raya joy: Sultan Abdullah made time to accompany the underprivileged in Kuantan to shop for Hari Raya essentials as they made preparations for the celebration in May 2019. — NIK NAIZI HUSIN/The Star



Nice to meet you: Sultan Abdullah meeting with locals after performing Friday prayers following the launch of Masjid Al-Bukhary Pulau Pinang in Bandar Sri Pinang in December 2019. — Bernama

Dirgahayu

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on the Occasion of

His Majesty's Official Birthday

on
7th June 2021 (26 Syawal 1442H)

with utmost sincerity from:

TMB
Tanah Makmur Berhad

KOTASAS
BANDAR BARU KUANTAN

ROMPINE
THE ROMPIN DELIGHT

Dirgahayu

Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations



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on the Occasion of

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on

7th June 2021 (26 Syawal 1442H)

with utmost sincerity from

President, Executive Board, Executive Council & Management
OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF MALAYSIA

Dirgahayu

Merafak Sembah dan Setinggi-Tinggi Ucapan Tahniah



KEBAWAH DULI YANG MAHA MULIA
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sempena

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

pada
7 Jun 2021 Bersamaan 26 Syawal 1442H

sembah takzim daripada:

ECOWORLD
CREATING TOMORROW & BEYOND

ECOWORLD
INTERNATIONAL
CREATING TOMORROW & BEYOND



Hand in hand: Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah holding hands as they cross the Canopy Walk during a visit to Bukit Bendera, Penang, in December 2019. — Bernama

The rakyat's pillars of strength

A FIGURE that is always by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's side is Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah. They are each other's strongest supporter.

They often leave the people amused by their candidness as they are not afraid to show their fondness for each other.

Oftentimes, they will inject a dose of fun and warmth at the events they attend, putting their guests at ease while still maintaining a level of decorum.

Once, during a banquet in Penang in 2019, the King jokingly told guests he had to cut his speech short because the Queen wanted to bring him out for durian after the event.

During a dinner in London that same year, the Queen had no qualms about adjusting the King's table microphone as he delivered his speech, in which he also managed to insert a few light jokes.

The King and Queen are always ready to engage with the public together and are prepared to extend a helping hand to those in need.

One of the causes close to their hearts is the Tunku Azizah Fertility Foundation, which aids couples who cannot afford fertility treatments to make their dreams of starting a family come true.

Both the King and Queen are also advocates for education and have encouraged the people to constantly learn new skills as they preserve and treasure their own local knowledge and cultures.

Rapt attention: Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah visiting the Fulbright English teaching assistants (ETA) booth in Kuantan in October 2019. The Queen had earlier officiated the ETA state-level showcase. — NIK NAIZI HUSIN/ The Star



Helping out: Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah serving food to flood victims at a flood relief centre in Pekan, Pahang, in January this year. — Photo taken from Istana Negara's Facebook page



Generous gesture: Sultan Abdullah giving Raya packets to a boy during a Compassion and Grace Programme at Masjid Kampung Kuala Penor in Kuantan in April this year. The King spent time with and gave donations to 52 dependants, including the elderly and those with special needs. — Photo taken from Istana Negara's Facebook page



Team effort: Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah stirring bubur lambuk during a programme organised by the Istana Negara Sports and Welfare Club in May this year. — Bernama



Happy families: Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah taking pictures with children of couples that benefited from the Tunku Azizah Fertility Foundation at the foundation's family day in October 2019. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

Dirgahayu

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on the Occasion of

His Majesty's Official Birthday

on

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With utmost sincerity from

The Board of Directors
Management & Staff

WZ Satu Berhad
200401027590 (666098-X)

Dirgahayu

Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations



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on the Occasion of

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7th June 2021 (26 Syawal 1442H)

with utmost sincerity from:

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria
President
&
Council Members
Staff, Coaches & Players
BADMINTON ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA

Dirgahayu

Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations



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with utmost sincerity from:

EKOVEST BERHAD
198501000052 (132493-D)

ISKANDAR WATERFRONT
Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn. Bhd.
200301023850 (626270-U)

PLS PLANTATIONS BERHAD
198701001365 (160032-K)

Humble and sporting Ruler

DATUK Mohd Rashid Hasnon's first close encounter with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah was when he was Penang deputy chief minister.

He said Sultan Abdullah (who was then Tengku Mahkota of Pahang) had just been appointed as president of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) in May 2014.

"As the head of a prestigious sports association, His Majesty handled his responsibilities firmly when facing criticism from various quarters, especially from sports fans and critics from all over the country.

"I never saw Sultan Abdullah get angry or feel offended by any remarks. Instead, he took the comments in his stride and viewed them as constructive criticism for the future of the country's football," he said in an interview with *The Star*.

Mohd Rashid added that every time he and His Majesty met during a friendly football match involving Penang, Pahang or Selangor, Sultan Abdullah would approach the spectators and amiably chatted with them.

"That really grabbed my attention. Tuanku was never arrogant and treated everybody with full respect although His Majesty is a highly respected figure.

"His Majesty is very well acquainted with football and adopted some of the concepts of the game during his term as FAM president.

"Tuanku is an excellent planner who can strategise amazingly and communicate well with all the players in order to achieve victory.

"From my personal point of view, Sultan Abdullah is a warm person with a friendly smile.

"Tuanku is also an interesting character and Members of Parliament get to meet him when the Parliament convenes during the start of each meeting," he added.



Sultan Abdullah giving the Jalur Gemilang to ex-national football coach Datuk K. Rajagopal before a match in October 2011. (Inset) Mohd Rashid often saw His Majesty chatting with spectators at matches. — M. AZHAR ARIF/The Star

Mohd Rashid, who is Batu Pahat MP and the Dewan Rakyat's Deputy Speaker, added that the King would give his advice and views to all MPs as the head of the country.

"The King's speeches are very much in line with the Standing Order and rules of the august House, showing his deep understanding in the administration and management of Parliament," he said.

He also noted that His Majesty follows the Federal Constitution in all of his speeches to ensure that it becomes a guide and basis for Malaysia.

Recalling last year's leadership crisis, when each lawmaker was summoned to meet His Majesty one by one, Mohd Rashid said Sultan Abdullah was calm and listened to their opinions.

On His Majesty's personal life, Mohd Rashid said the King was known to be very close with his family members, especially his wife and children.

"Tuanku spends time with his children and usually interacts with them during meals or while playing sports.

"Whenever I meet Tuanku, his family will always be by his side and Tuanku will introduce them to all of us," he added.

"Sultan Abdullah is a leader who is moderate, including as the head of Islam in Malaysia.

"Everything is conducted perfectly according to the tenets of Islam and implemented in moderation," Mohd Rashid said.

He added that prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw the enforcement of movement restrictions including physical distancing, Sultan Abdullah had consented for the surau located within the Istana Negara grounds to be opened to the public for Friday prayers.

"As the head of state that upholds Islam, His Majesty's life is very close to religion," Mohd Rashid said, adding that Sultan Abdullah was also a humble and down-to-earth person.

"Tuanku will sometimes stop by the roadside and talk to the rakyat.

"He has even helped small businesses by buying items directly from the rakyat, which they really appreciate," he said.

Wishes for a beloved King

YANG di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah is a wise and compassionate Ruler who is the symbol of unity of all Malaysians regardless of their background.

Malaysians believe that the King represents harmony among the multiracial and religious communities living in the country.

Despite the postponement of events and programmes in conjunction with the King's official birthday this year, Malaysians of all backgrounds continue to extend their good wishes.

This is the second time that all events in conjunction with the King's official birthday have been postponed to another date due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lawyer Datuk Andy Low Hann Yong said the King was a symbol of peace and a sage Ruler who has the rakyat's best interests at heart at all times.

"My hope is that His Majesty's reign will be peaceful and that he will live a long and healthy life," he said.

Television host and popular personality Datuk Aznil Nawawi said the King was a humble and down-to-earth person, and that there was no protocol barrier between him and the people.

"Even when he was still the Crown Prince of Pahang, he followed in the footsteps of his father, who had no qualms about going down to the ground to meet the people.

"There are many pictures of His Majesty going on a boat ride or a four-wheel drive with Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah to help those in need.

"This practice has continued during his current reign as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong," he said.

Aznil, popularly known as Pak Nil, added that the rakyat was lucky to be able to see the King and Queen exercising their royal duties through photos and videos shared on social media.

"We rarely see any form of strict protocol as the King blends in naturally with his subjects.

"Our King clearly shows that he is one with the rakyat and never creates any barriers between him and us," he said.

Aznil added that the rest of the royal family, including Pahang Regent Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah, also shared the same traits, values and humbleness that warmed the hearts of the rakyat.

"They are often seen with minimal police presence or protocols, and the people really appreciate this about them," he said.

He also noted that Sultan Abdullah was helming the country during a particularly challenging period.

"His Majesty is playing a big role in managing the Covid-19 pandemic and the rakyat is always behind him.

"I believe Allah put him in the right place at the right time to steer the country forward," said Aznil, who expressed his confidence that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong would use his wisdom to make the right decisions for the people.

"I wish Tuanku a long and healthy life, and I hope Malaysia will prosper under his reign," he said.



Low: 'I hope His Majesty's reign will be peaceful and that he will live a long and healthy life.'



Aznil: 'His Majesty is the best person to lead the country during this challenging and uncertain time.'

Sabahan Jim Matthew, 40, said Sultan Abdullah was always down-to-earth and caring towards the people.

"His Majesty always seems to be up to date on current issues and the welfare of his people.

"I remember the many times the King stopped to help accident victims he encountered on his journeys, as well as the time His Majesty and the Queen went down to the ground to check on the welfare of flood victims in Pahang," he recalled.

University student S. Priyanka, 23, said the King had shown exceptional discretion and consideration for all races in Malaysia.

"The King and Queen have acknowledged every major cultural celebration in the country without fail, even when some people have raised controversial views.

"His Majesty has also proven that he is level-headed and makes sound decisions for the well-being of the rakyat.

"When talk of an Emergency was first raised amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the King did not simply accept the government's proposal; rather, the King listened to the rakyat's sentiments and asked for more solid reasons to justify an Emergency," she said.

Priyanka noted that the King had also given much concern to every decision made by the government to address the impact of Covid-19, especially on financial and economic matters such as unemployment and the most affected sectors of the economy.

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on the Occasion of

His Majesty's Official Birthday

on
7th June 2021 (26 Syawal 1442H)

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