

StarSpecial

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Installation of Penang Yang di-Pertua Negri



Good role model

Penang's newly installed head of state, Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, is known among ex-schoolmates from Bukit Mertajam High School as being friendly and ready to contribute to charitable causes in aid of underprivileged students.



Ahmad Fuzi saluting the Second Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment before being sworn in as the eighth Yang di-Pertua Negri of Penang at Dewan Sri Pinang in George Town. With him are Khadijah, Chow and his wife Tan Lian Kee. — ZHAFFARAN NASIB/The Star

Humble, friendly head of state

By IMRAN HILMY
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HUMBLE, polite and intelligent. These are some of the traits Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak's former classmates believe will stand him in good stead as Penang's eighth Yang di-Pertua Negri.

One of his ex-classmates at Bukit Mertajam High School (HSBM) Anthony Ang, 72, said both he and Ahmad Fuzi were in Form 5A in 1966.

"I still can remember his smart hair cut, and neatly worn school uniforms.

"He was always tidy and presentable in school," he said in an interview.

Ang, a former teacher, said apart from his smart appearance, Ahmad Fuzi was also humble and friendly.

"During my school days, I was quite a loner as I come from a poor family.

"Tun Ahmad Fuzi never chose his friends based on background or race. He was always nice to me.

"We would eat and play together. We even shared our food. Until today, he would call me 'bro' whenever we meet each other," he said.

Ang, who now lives in Tanjung Tokong with his wife, said whenever he was in Kuala Lumpur, Ahmad Fuzi would invite him over to his house.

"Actually, I lost touch with him after Form 5 as we went separate ways.

"He went to SMK Anderson in Ipoh while I remained in HSBM and did my Form Six.

"About four years ago, I started to gather many of our ex-classmates for a reunion.

"We managed to draw a total of 50 ex-students for the get-together. From then on, we have been in touch," he said.

Another former schoolmate K. Sundaresan, 57, described Ahmad Fuzi as a helpful person who was ever willing to help anyone, anytime.

"Every festive season such as Hari Raya, Chinese New Year and Deepavali, the alumni will arrange financial aid for underprivileged students at the school and Tun Ahmad



Ahmad Fuzi (right) with his ex-classmates when they visited their former teacher Stanley Chew (seated, second left) at his house in June 2019. Chew taught them Mathematics in Form 4 and Form 5.

Fuzi would never miss the chance to contribute toward the cause each year," he said.

Sundaresan, who is now a teacher in HSBM, said as a liaison officer of the school alumni, he would meet Ahmad Fuzi quite often during reunion dinners.

"He is a role model to our students. We are all happy and proud of him. We think he is the best person to hold the post of Yang di-Pertua Negri," he said.

HSBM Alumni (Penang chapter) chairman Datuk Aloysius Gaspar, 59, said Ahmad Fuzi never failed to attend all of their functions, especially if they are held in Penang.

"Every year, we will have our dinner on 'Founders Day' on Jan 18, and he is sure to be present," he said.

He said the alumni was proud of Ahmad Fuzi that they had proposed to the school to

mark April 30 as 'Governor's Day' in honour of his appointment and remarkable achievement.

"We hope to invite all his ex-classmates to an event at school and perhaps each one of them can tell stories about Ahmad Fuzi as a form of motivation to the students.

"However, this will largely depend on the latest development of the Covid-19 situation as we are still under the movement control order," he said.

The Sungai Bakap-born Ahmad Fuzi joined the Diplomatic and Administrative Service in 1972, serving on various capacities at the Foreign Ministry before retiring in 2009.

The former Wisma Putra secretary-general also served at the Malaysian missions in Moscow, the Hague, Canberra, Washington and Dhaka.

Ahmad Fuzi was sworn in as the eighth Yang di-Pertua Negri of Penang at Dewan Sri Pinang in George Town on Labour Day.

He succeeded Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas, who had served as the state's seventh governor for 20 years since 2001.

Ahmad Fuzi will serve a four-year term as the head of state.

State Secretary Datuk Abdul Razak Jaafar announced the appointment while Penang High Court Judge Datuk Seri Tun Abdul Majid Tun Hamzah witnessed the swearing-in ceremony.

Present were former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Musa Hitam and his wife, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Ahmad Zakiyuddin Abdul Rahman, Deputy Chief Minister II Dr P. Ramasamy and other dignitaries.

Ahmad Fuzi arrived at Dewan Sri Pinang at about 9.45am, accompanied by his consort Toh Puan Khadijah Mohd Noor.

The ceremony started with Ahmad Fuzi inspecting the guard of honour mounted by the Second Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment, comprising three officers and 103 soldiers, before being ushered into the ceremonial hall.

During the ceremony, Ahmad Fuzi was conferred the Darjah Utama Pangkuan Negeri (DUPN), which carries the title Datuk Seri Utama.

He also signed the instrument of office.

The swearing-in was followed by a 17-cannon salute as a symbolic mark of his appointment.

On Friday, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah presented the instrument of appointment as the eighth Yang di-Pertua Negri of Penang to Ahmad Fuzi in a ceremony at Istana Negara.

Sultan Abdullah also conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara, which carries the title Tun, to Ahmad Fuzi.



(From left) Good friends Ahmad Fuzi, Dr Lee Kok Seng and Ang at their HSBM school reunion dinner in Penang in July 2019.



Ahmad Fuzi (third from left) with his former hostelmates in his schooldays at HSBM.



Ahmad Fuzi taking his oath as Yang di-Pertua Negri in George Town, Penang. — Buletin Mutiara



Ahmad Fuzi signing the instrument of office.



Sultan Abdullah presenting the instrument of appointment as the eighth Yang di-Pertua Negri of Penang to Ahmad Fuzi at Istana Negara. — Bernama



The Yang di-Pertua Negri and his consort accompanied by Chow (middle) at the swearing-in ceremony at Dewan Sri Pinang. — Bernama



Ahmad Fuzi with Abdul Rahman (right) at the ceremony in Penang.



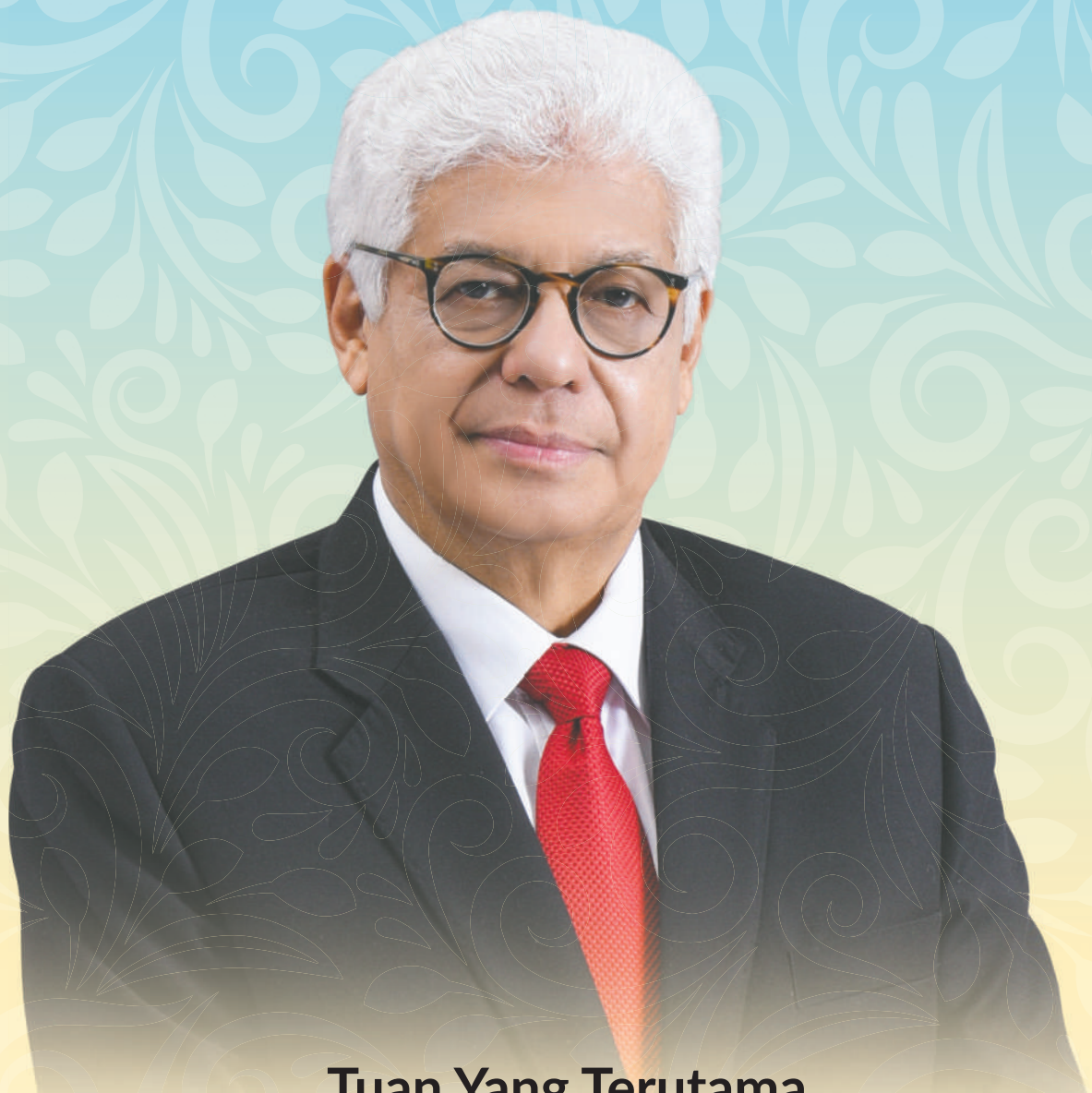
Ahmad Fuzi and Khadijah arriving at Istana Negara. — Bernama



The newly appointed Yang di-Pertua Negri inspecting the guard of honour at Dewan Sri Pinang.

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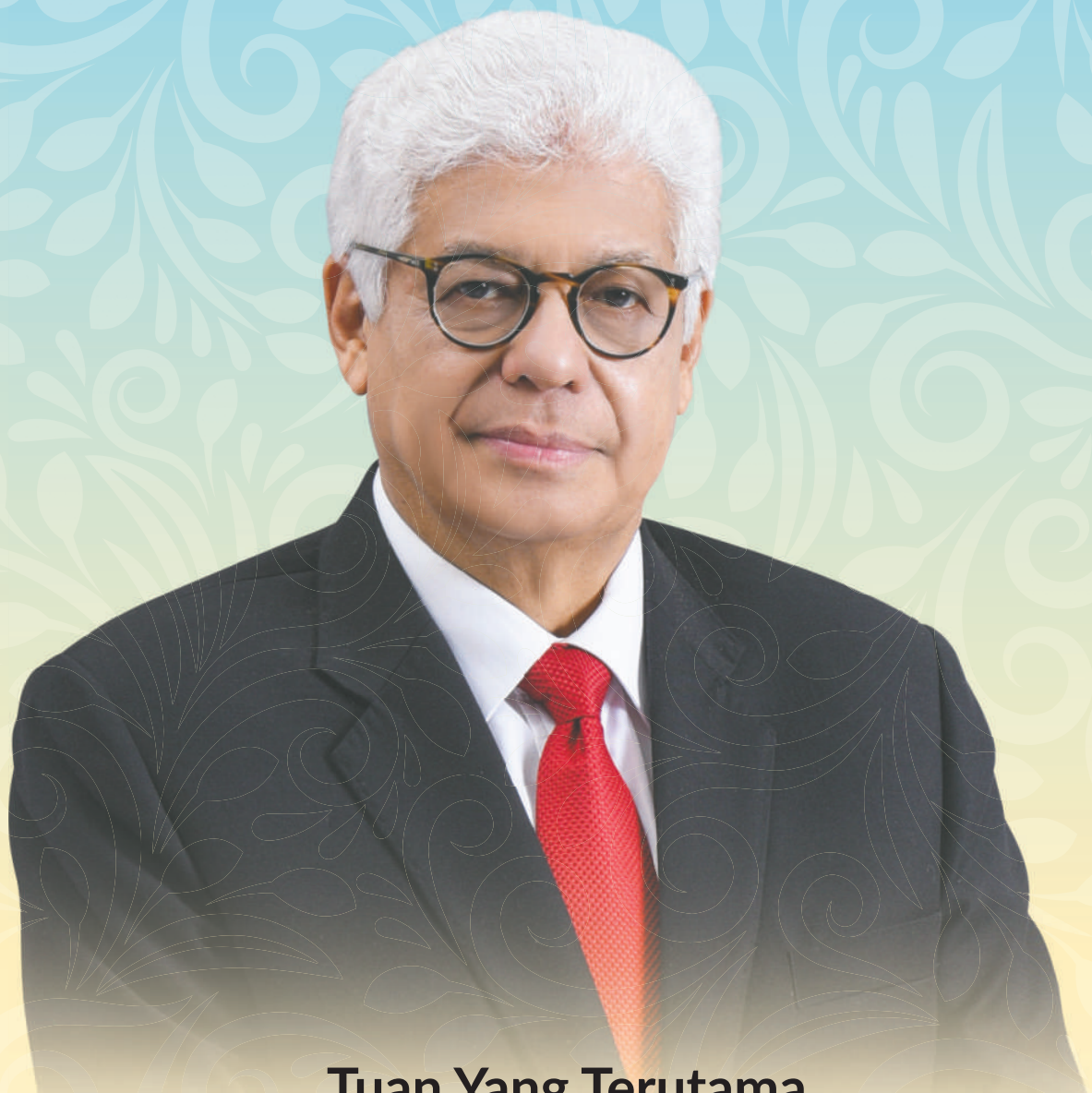
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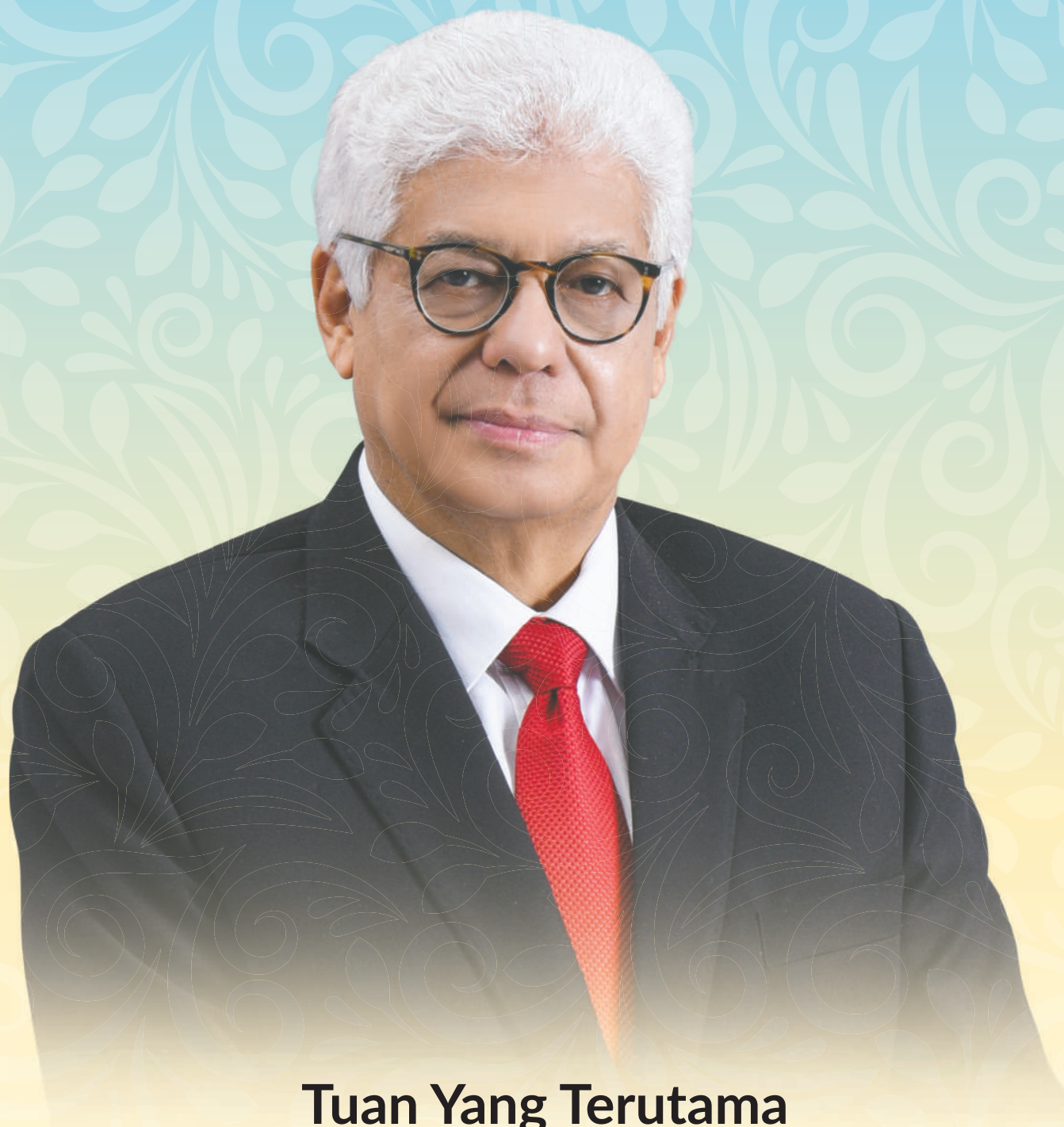
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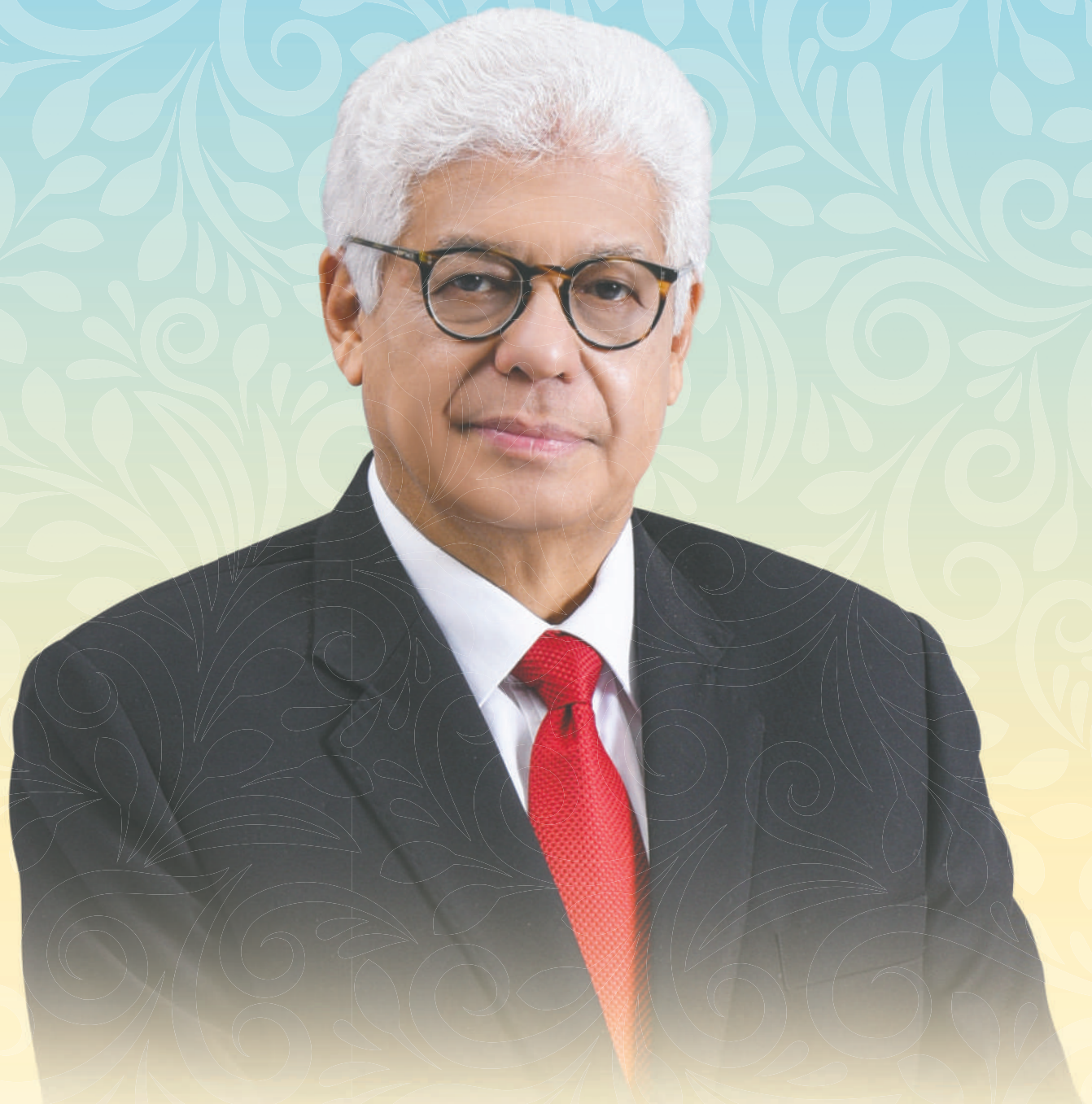
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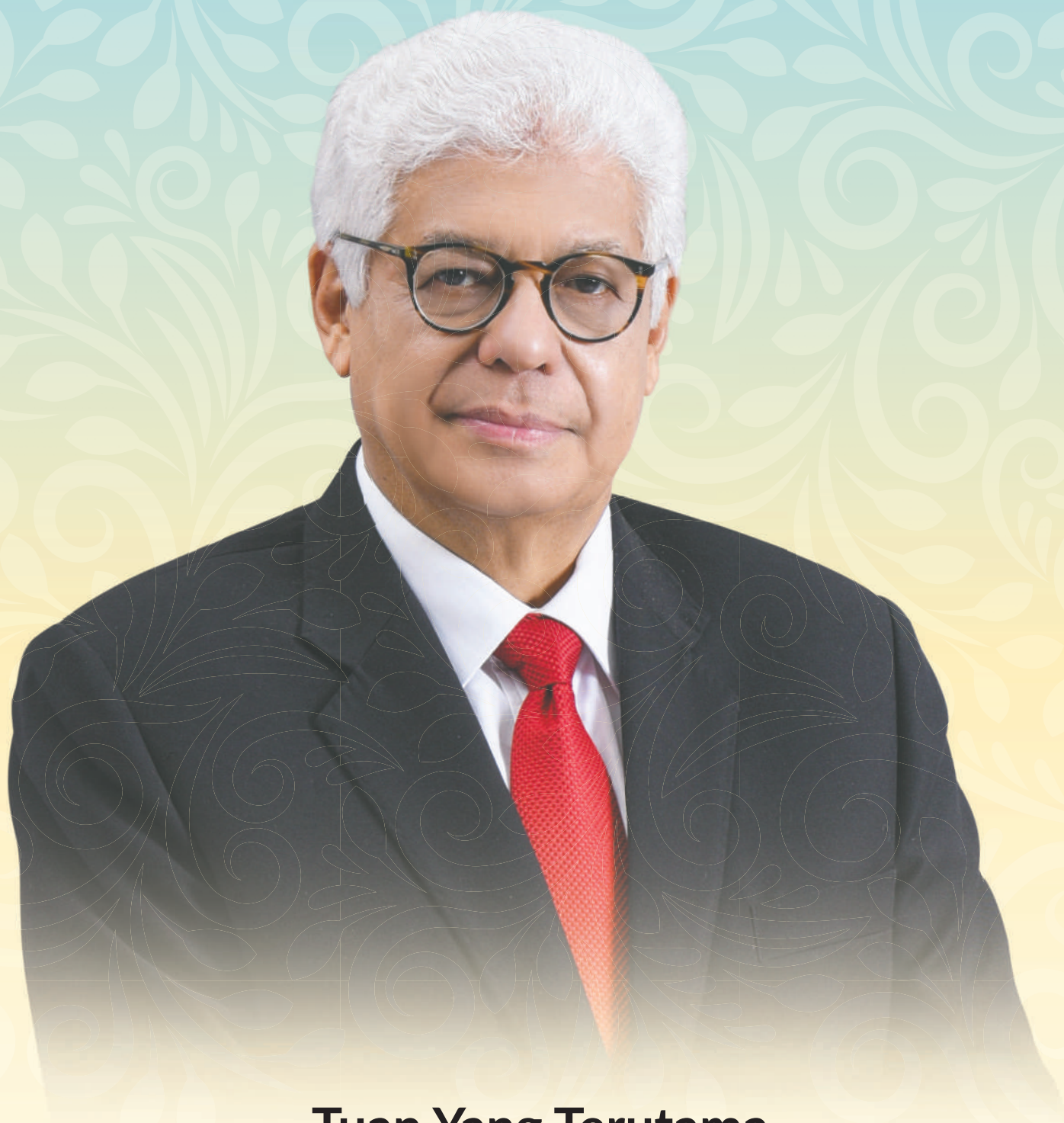


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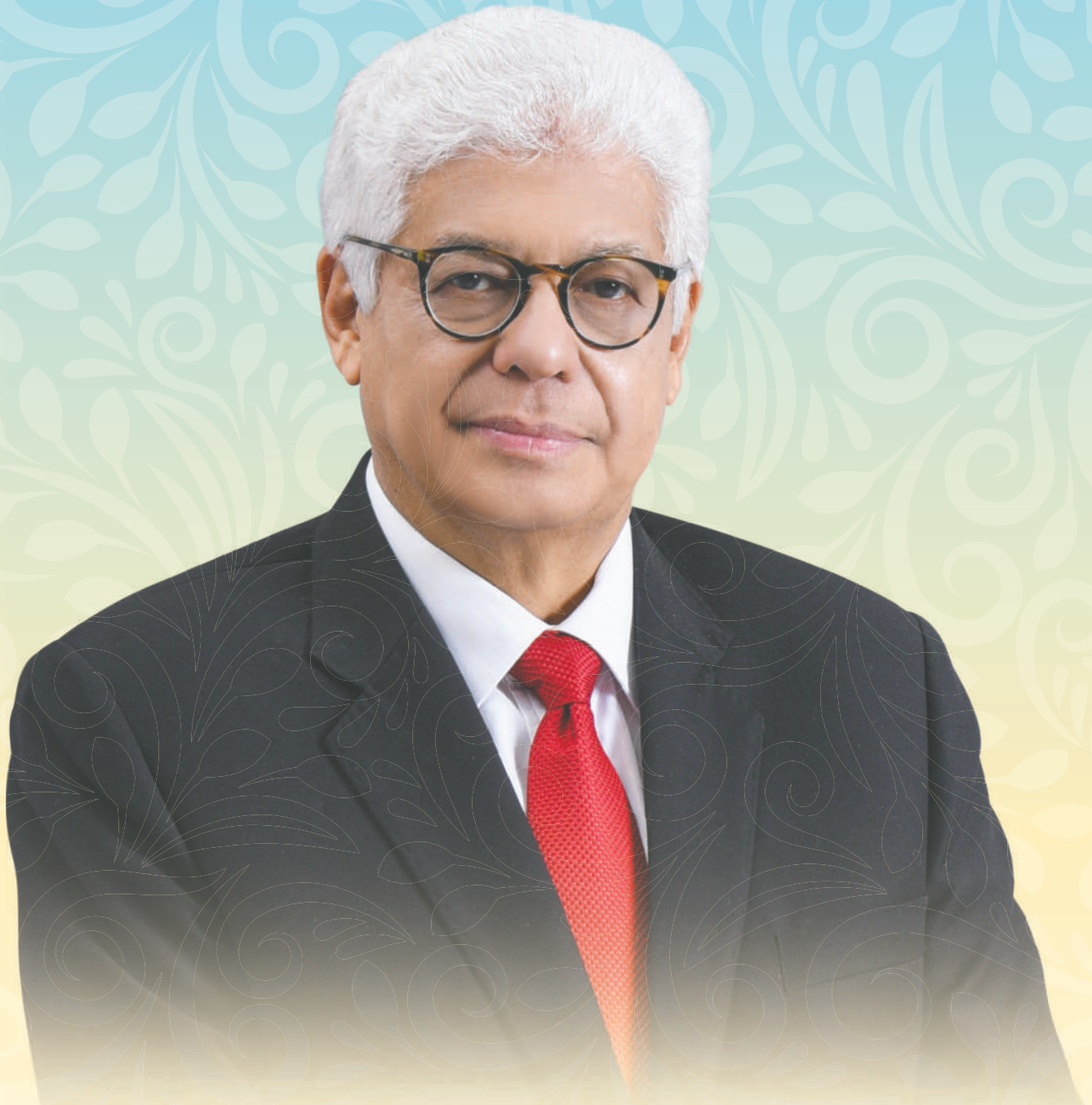
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