

*A Century  
of the  
Conference of  
Rulers*

1897 - 1997

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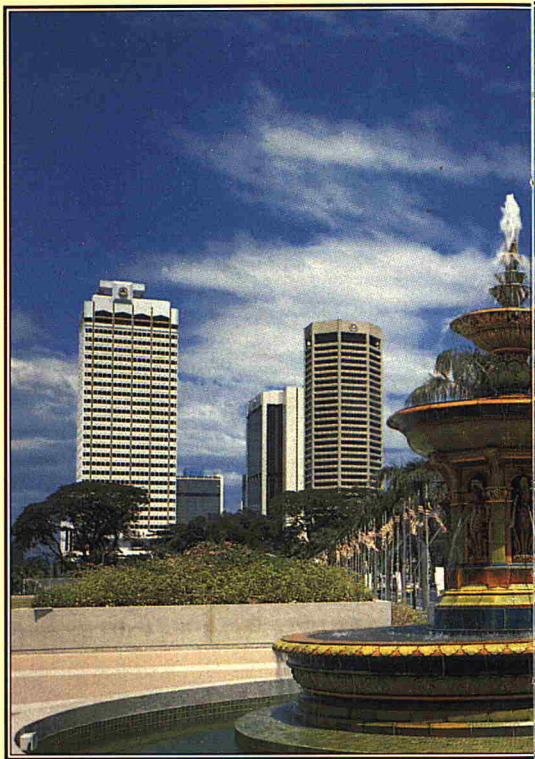
1897 - 1997

NIK ABDUL RASHID BIN  
NIK ABDUL MAJID

**This book is dedicated to:**

**HM Tuanku Ja'afar, Their Royal Highnesses the Rulers, Their Excellencies the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri, Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and all Yang Amat Berhormat Menteri-Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers, the family of the author, and to those who value information and love to seek knowledge.**





*Kuala Lumpur, which was relinquished by the  
Selangor Government to the Federal Government as the  
Federal Territory and permanent venue of the  
Conference of Rulers*



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# Message

FROM HIS MAJESTY  
THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG



It is now one century since the first Conference of Rulers was held. But this institution remains very much *terra incognita*. This book is an attempt to answer the many questions which may arise in the minds of the Malaysian public as well as foreigners who are curious about this august institution.

We hope that this book will be a popular source of reference and will find a place on the shelves of the many libraries in this country and abroad.

The book deals with *inter alia* the power of the Conference in the election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Malaysia's Supreme Ruler), amendments to the Constitution, and appointments to important offices. It also provides a portrayal of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and his consort as well as that of the other Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri (Governors) and their consorts, the Prime Minister, and the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister of each state so that the *rakyat* will be better acquainted with them.

One particular chapter deals with what is known as the Raja-Raja and the Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri Higher Studies Scholarship Fund, Act 1983, the existence of which is not well-known. It is reflective of the role and social responsibilities of the Conference of Rulers because, in making available scholarships for the pursuit of studies in institutions of higher learning, it is contributing directly to the intellectual and professional development of the country.

The fund now has an asset of RM20 million. With an allocation of RM1 million per year, the Scholarship Fund Board is in a position to award 20 new scholarships per year besides funding those which have been committed. Steps are being taken to increase the Fund to enable more students to further their education to the doctorate level. This will help ensure that the country will be able to march into the 21st century with better qualified, more highly educated and rigorously trained personnel.



The Conference indeed performs many functions. It has done so in the course of its existence, being in the past the voice which has made it possible to hold together the country's socio-political fabric for Malaysia's resilient polity has for long hinged on the existence of specific traditions and conventions without which this society might well have floundered in a sea of extraneous political influences.

We congratulate the author for successfully producing a book which is long overdue. To the donors we take this opportunity to thank them for their munificent contributions. Their generosity will go a long way towards achieving the desired objectives and enable many more scholarships to be awarded to deserving students.

It is our sincere hope that readers will find this book interesting, informative and educational.



**Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman**

D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K.M., D.M.N., D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Kelantan),  
D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Pahang),  
D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perak)

Istana Negara,  
Kuala Lumpur  
11 July 1997

# Message

FROM YANG AMAT BERTHORMAT  
THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA



I would like to congratulate the author for the timely publication of this book. The Conference of Rulers is now a hundred years old. This book which details events leading to the establishment of the Conference and its functions should serve as a convenient reference for those interested in the unique institution of the Conference of Rulers.

The author's inclusion of short biographies of past Prime Ministers in their capacities as advisors to Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in the Conferences is useful since they played significant roles in a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government that we practise in this country.




In a parliamentary system of government with a constitutional monarchy, the exercise of governmental authority is through the King on the advice of the elected government. The King does not act independently but rather through His Majesty's government formed by a cabinet of elected Ministers. The Prime Minister in his capacity as the head of the elected government advises the King on all matters pertaining to governmental affairs. If however, the Prime Minister loses the support of the Parliament then the King can dismiss the government and appoint a new Prime Minister or cause an election to the parliament to be held.

Other than this, the King acts only on the advice of the Prime Minister. This relationship between King and Prime Minister is crucial to the proper function of a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarch.

It is for this reason that the Prime Minister must always be present at a Conference of Rulers, as are the Menteri-Menteri Besar when their respective Sultans attend the conference.

However in Malaysia there is one occasion when the Prime Minister and the Menteri-Menteri Besar may not attend a Rulers Conference and that is when the conference elects the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong. On this matter the Rulers act on their own, without need for statutory advice from the elected Heads of Government.

I understand that the proceeds of this book will be channelled towards the Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri Scholarship Fund. The Government would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Conference of Rulers for having initiated this Scholarship Fund which is seen as a worthy social service on the part of the Rulers. This will endear the Rulers among the *rakyat* in this country and will certainly help deserving students to further their studies. I hope the fund will grow and benefit more students and contribute to the development of the country.



Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad

Prime Minister's Department,  
Kuala Lumpur  
11 July 1997

# Acknowledgement

FROM THE AUTHOR

The writing of this book has been made possible with the kind help of many, particularly the Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, and the Private Secretaries of the various *Istansas*. The author was able to have audiences with HM Tuanku Ja'afar, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Rulers of Perlis, Kedah, Selangor, Pahang, Kelantan, Terengganu and Perak, the Regent of Negeri Sembilan and the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka and Pulau Pinang with the help of Y.M. Engku Datuk Ibrahim bin Engku Ngeh, the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal. Similarly, the writer was able to meet with the Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan, who is the Chairman of the Raja-Raja and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri Scholarship Fund Board, including the Chief Minister of Melaka, who is a member of the Board.



To HM Tuanku Ja'afar, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the writer would like to humbly express his appreciation for HM's kind words written in the Royal Message. The author, likewise, is also grateful to the Prime Minister, Y.A.B. Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad for his message.

The biodata of the Rulers, their consorts, the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri and their consorts, as well as the Prime Minister and the Menteri-Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers were obtained from their respective Private Secretaries through the Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal and including those from other sources. The information on the Files, the Agenda, the Minutes, the Report and the Seal were obtained from the Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal while the photographs were obtained from the Information Department. To Engku, Tuan Hj. Sabtu, Encik Abu Samah, Encik Adnan, Puan Jariah, Puan Noorlizah, Puan Habibah, Cik Noor Akma, Encik Azli, Encik Zainal, Encik Suliman, Encik Nordin, Puan Zaiton and the staff of the Department of Information, and the Private Secretaries to Their Royal Highnesses the Rulers and heads of government, the author acknowledges with great appreciation and gratitude the assistance given.

To Y.A.B. Datuk Seri Hj. Mohd. Zin bin Hj. Ab. Ghani, the Chief Minister of Melaka and the State Secretary, Datuk Wira Abdul Rahman bin Jamal, the writer wishes to place on record his gratitude for the blessings given to write this book. To the staff of Melaka Museums Corporation who had spent their valuable time, particularly Cik Zalina, Cik Patimah, Puan Fadhilah, Encik Rosli, Encik Khamis, Puan Laily, Puan Asmah, Puan Noor Azura, Encik Johari, and others, *sekalung budi* from the author.

To the donors, the Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, cum Secretariat of the Fund, the writer would like to place on record their generous contributions, for the *ringgit* will go a long way towards enabling more students to pursue their studies in both local and foreign universities.

To the family of the writer who had missed him, let him say "more times are going to be missed". May Allah bless you all.

Nik Abdul Rashid bin Nik Abdul Majid

Melaka Museums Corporation  
24 September 1996



# Acknowledgement

FROM THE KEEPER OF THE RULERS' SEAL



I am extremely grateful and most thankful to Y.Bhg. Dato' Nik Abdul Rashid bin Nik Abdul Majid who upon his foresight initiated the compilation of this book which traces an event of significant historical importance for the benefit of students of history, scholars, researchers and general readers at large who value reading as a source of information to enrich one's knowledge.

Besides being commemorative in nature in that this book documented one hundred years of the Conference of Rulers, it would also be enormously informative in a single volume as to emphasize and fortify the notion of the 'buckle that fastens' the monarchy with the constitutional democracy in a country such as Malaysia. It may be a moment to rejoice upon completion of an endearing mammoth task in the publication of this book but it is most sad that the author is not able to savour the glory of his endeavours as Dato' Nik Abdul Rashid passed away on 19 October 1996. For all the noble efforts of the late Dato' Nik Abdul Rashid in enriching the knowledge of others, I hereby extend my deepest condolences to his widow Y.Bhg. Datin Nik Zaharah binti Nik Din and the rest of his family. My heartfelt gratitude to his family for their understanding and support to the late Dato' Nik Abdul Rashid while he was everywhere else but home, in the process of collecting materials for his compilation.



In the process of assisting the author, we encountered numerous obstacles in determining the facts of events but at the same time we were blessed with everwilling cooperation received from the various agencies, institutions, corporations and individuals. Our problems were never insurmountable and for that we are grateful.

In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to the following Ministries, Departments and Agencies: Ceremonial Division and International Conference Secretariat, Prime Minister's Department; Attorney-General's Chambers; Istana Negara; National Archives Department; Information Department; Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Ministry of Education; Melaka Museums Corporation; Pos Malaysia Berhad; University of Malaya and all offices of the Private Secretaries to Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Duli-Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja-Raja, Tuan-Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri, Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister and Yang Amat Berhormat Menteri-Menteri Besar/Chief Ministers.

I am grateful for the cooperation and assistance so ungrudgingly extended which proved to be invaluable to the following individuals: Y.Bhg. Prof. Dato' Mohd. Yusof bin Hashim, Head of History Department, University of Malaya; Y.Bhg. Prof. Dato' Khoo Kay Kim, History Department, University of Malaya; Y.Bhg. Datin Paduka Zaharah binti Ibrahim, Parliamentary Draftsman, Attorney-General's Chambers; Y.Bhg. Datuk Mohd. Salleh bin Haji Hassan, Datuk Pengelola Bijaya Diraja, Istana Negara; Tuan Haji Ariffin bin Abdullah, Ceremonial Division and International Conference Secretariat, Prime Minister's Department; Puan Hajah Rahani binti Jamil, National Archives Department; Puan Nor Azmah binti Shehidan and Puan Sa'odah binti Abdullah, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka; Cik Zalina binti Malek, Melaka Museums Corporation; Y.M. Prof. Raja Zahabuddin bin Raja Yaacob, Institut Teknologi Mara; Encik G. Ramalingam, Pos Malaysia Berhad and Encik Sabtu bin Awab, Assistant Secretary, Conference of Rulers.

Engku Datuk Ibrahim bin Engku Ngah

Kuala Lumpur  
11 July 1997

# Preface

Many books have been written on constitutional law, public law, politics and history which contain a chapter or two on the subject of the Conference of Rulers, but no attempt was made to explain in detail about the powers and functions of the institution. This book is an attempt to record all significant events in relation to the Conference and important decisions made by the Conference.

The main objective of this book is to introduce to the public in detail a unique national institution not found elsewhere in the world – the Conference of Rulers.<sup>2</sup>

This book also seeks to give some understanding on the powers, functions, jurisdiction and scope of the Conference, especially in the election and removal of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The third objective of the book is to inform the public of the important role played by the conference in the making of certain amendments to the Constitution, such as part III which deals with citizenship matters, Article 152 which deals with the national language and Article 153 which deals with the safeguarding of the position of the Malays and the natives of Sabah and Sarawak.

This book also seeks to inform the world that in Malaysia, democracy is practised not only at the level of the state and parliamentary elections, but also at the highest and august level – the Conference of Rulers – in the election and removal of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Finally, this book is intended to be a book of record. It contains the dates and venues of the 174 meetings of the Conference, the profiles of the Rulers, their consorts, the Yang di-Pertua – Yang di-Pertua Negeri and their wives, and also the Prime Ministers, the Menteri-Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers who had attended the Conference as advisors. This book also contains pictures of past Conferences.

Although it is a book of record of some sort, it is not purely academic. Its content is also suitable for light reading.

---

1 The Author

2 Fiji is considering whether to introduce the concept underlying the institution of nine traditional chiefs as an official institution in its new Constitution.



Floral Float Procession during the Kuala Lumpur Floral Fest. One of the floats exhibiting the Malaysian emblem and motto.

## 1 Introduction:



# TO KNOW MALAYSIA IS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Malaysia is not easy to describe. Malaysia is not a kingdom, yet it has a King or the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. In the nine Malay States, the Heads of State are Rulers of royal blood, yet in four other states, the Heads of State may be commoners.

"The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is elected and yet he is not a President. He is a hereditary Sultan and yet as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong he holds office only for five years"

Malaysia practises a system of Constitutional Monarchy at both Federal and State levels. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Rulers exercise limited powers, mostly constitutional and ceremonial, but in the appointment of the executive and the dissolution of the legislature, they play a very significant role.

The Rulers ascend the thrones under various constitutional provisions. Generally, the eldest surviving sons succeed their fathers. However, in some states like Perak and Negeri Sembilan, different systems prevail. The Heads of State in states without Rulers are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The name "Malaysia" reflects the fact that it is part of the Malay archipelago and the special position the Malays occupy. In fact, when the country first became independent in 1957, the Constitution provided that the name of the country was "Persekutuan Tanah Melayu" or in English, the Federation of Malaya.

Only Malays can be appointed as Menteri Besar in the nine Malay States, although in the other states any citizen can be appointed as Chief Minister.

Malaysia is a federation of thirteen states. However, it was originally formed as the Federation of Malaya, an entity which consisted of eleven states without two other states, the states of Sabah (then North Borneo) and Sarawak, which were included later by virtue of the formation of Malaysia. This is still reflected in the fact that under the Constitution, the States of Sabah and Sarawak enjoy certain rights not available to the member states of the original Federation.

Islam is the official religion of the Federation, but other religions may be practised in peace and harmony in any part of the Federation. A Ruler is the head of religion of his state, but a head of state who is not a Ruler is not. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the head of religion of the States without

Rulers, namely Melaka, Pulau Pinang, Sabah and Sarawak. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong continues to exercise functions as the head of religion of his state even after his election as Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Malaysia has a representative government. The Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives) consists of 193 members elected by the voters in each constituency. However, the 69 members of the Dewan Negara (the Senate) are either elected by the respective state legislative assemblies, or are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Twenty six members (two for each state) are elected and forty-three members are appointed.

Malay is the national language, but English is recognized as the second language and is widely used. However, the Constitution protects a person's right to use (except for official purposes) or to teach or learn any other languages.

The Constitution is written and Parliament is empowered to pass laws. However, the Constitution recognizes customs or usage having the force of law as law. This is particularly true of the customs of the natives of Sabah and Sarawak.

The procedure for amending the Federal Constitution varies in complexity. A bill to amend most provisions of the Constitution requires at least two thirds majority of the total number of members of the legislature on the Second and Third Readings. Several others require also the consent of the Conference of Rulers. Yet there are also those which merely require a simple majority. Other laws can be passed by a simple majority, except a law altering the boundaries of any state. Such law requires the consent of the legislature of the state concerned (expressed in the form of a state law) and the consent of the Conference of Rulers.

The current government is formed by the Barisan Nasional or National Front which is not a political party per se, but a coalition of twelve political parties, each having its own ideology and objectives, but with one mission and vision - to win the election and to collectively rule the country. There are, however, several opposition parties.

Malaysia is not only endowed with natural resources in abundance, but is also rich in culture, custom and traditions.

Festivals are rich, colourful, and varied. There are many festivals celebrated every year everywhere, and by everyone. The national festivals are celebrated on a much grander scale than the local festivals. Several occasions are also commemorated. National and state holidays are declared for some of these festivals and occasions. (see Table 1.1)

Many Malaysians in the various states are related either by blood or marriage. The Royal families are no exceptions. Most, if not all, of the members of the Conference of Rulers are related to each other, either by blood or by marriage.

Inter-racial marriages are increasingly becoming common. In spite of all these differences and similarities, one thing is certain - we are all Malaysians.

## DEMOGRAPHY

Malaysia has a population of 20.7 million in 1995, comprising four major ethnic groups, namely, Malays and Bumiputerans, Chinese, Indians and others, on a ratio of 61.7% Bumiputera, 27.3% Chinese, 7.7% Indians, and 3.3% others.<sup>4</sup>

"The outstanding characteristic of Malaysia's population today is its highly variegated ethnic mix that makes it one of the prime examples of a multi-racial society in the whole world. The multi-ethnic character of Malaysia's population has come into being over the course of the last 150 years. Broadly speaking, Malaysia's ethnic groups fall into two main categories: those with cultural infinities indigenous to the region and to one another, who are classified as Bumiputera; and those whose cultural affinities lie outside."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Seventh Malaysia Plan, 1996-2000, Table 5-1, and Para 4.10

<sup>5</sup> Information Malaysia, Berita Publishing, 1992-93, p. 73



## ECONOMY

If nominal per capita income can be used as a yardstick to measure economic development, then Malaysia stands just behind Singapore and Brunei among ASEAN countries but above Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam. Per capita GDP PPP (Purchasing-Power Parity) of ASEAN Countries in U.S. Dollars are: Singapore (21,493), Brunei (20,589), Malaysia (8,763), Thailand (6,816), Indonesia (3,388), Philippines (2,660) and Vietnam (1,263). Among Asian countries, Malaysia stands after Hongkong (22,527), Singapore (21,493), Japan (21,238), Brunei Darussalam (20,589), Taiwan (13,235), Saudi Arabia (11,176) and South Korea (10,534)<sup>6</sup>

## QUALITY OF LIFE

The quality of life of Malaysians has improved over the years to a stage where we are proud to be Malaysians. Literacy rate has improved from 85.1% in 1990 to 89.3% in 1995; 5.3 doctors per 1000 population (4.8 in 1990); 95.8% of the population have electricity (83.8%); 89.1% with water supply (80.1%), 339 vehicles per 1000 population (273); 164.3 telephones per 1000 population (89.3); 108.5 television sets per 1000 population (99.5); and 1.5 km of road per square kilometer of land.<sup>7</sup>

To know Malaysia is to love Malaysia. We know our standing in ASEAN and ASIA. We know our strength and weaknesses. We know our religions and our languages, our culture and our custom; we know our history and our tradition; we know our law and our constitution. If these culture, custom and tradition are compatible with our vision on development, we need to preserve them.



HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong receiving the royal salute of honour during the Merdeka Day celebration on 31 August 1996 at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

<sup>6</sup> *Asiaspek*, January 19, 1996

<sup>7</sup> Seventh Malaysia Plan, 1996-2000, Table 5-6

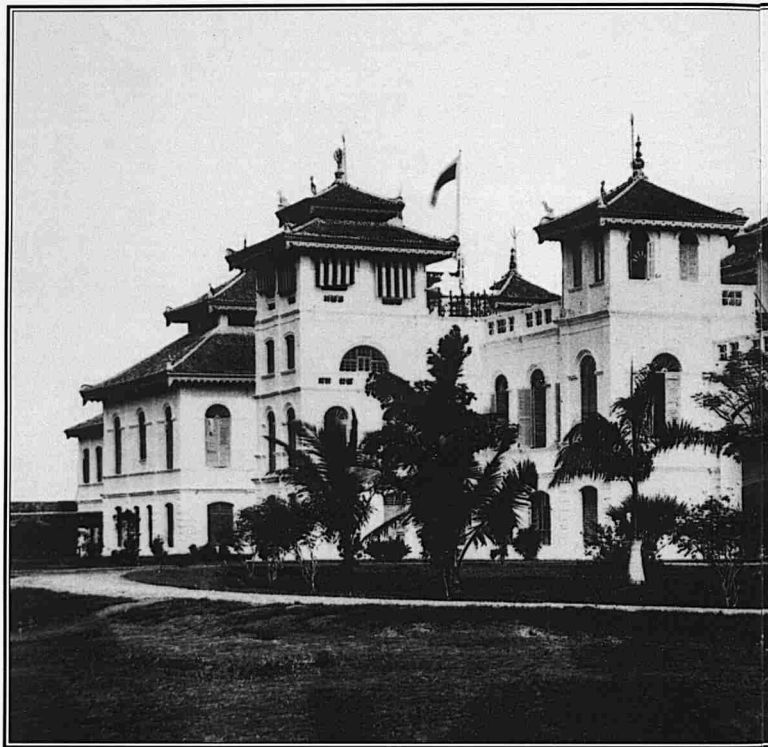
TABLE 1.J  
NATIONAL AND STATE HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

NATIONAL	STATE	FESTIVALS
National Day	Birthdays of HRH Sultan Kedah Darul Aman	Asuta (Muslim)
Birthdays of HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Birthdays of HRH Sultan Selangor, Darul Ehsan	Nisfu Saaban (Muslim)
Workers Day	Birthdays of HRH Al-Sultan Kelantan	Moon-cake Festival (Chinese)
Hari Raya Puasa (Muslim)	Birthdays of HRH Baginda Sultan Johor	All-souls Day (Chinese)
Hari Raya Qurban (Muslim)	Birthdays of HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan	Hungry Ghost Festival (Chinese)
Ma' al Hijrah (Muslim)	Birthdays of HRH Sultan Terengganu	Dragon Boat Festival (Chinese)
Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Muslim)	Birthdays of HRH Raja Perlis	St. Peter Festival (Christians)
Chinese New Year (Chinese)	Birthdays of HRH Yang di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus	Easter Sunday (Christians)
Deepavali (Indian - except Sarawak & W.P. Labuan)	Birthdays of HRH Al-Sultan of Pahang	Genggulang Day (Orang Asli)
Wesak Day (Buddhist)	Birthdays of HE Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang	Thaipongal (Indians)
Christmas (Christians)	Birthdays of HE Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sabah	Manual Padi dan Menyulang Tahun (Orang Asli)
	Birthdays of HE Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak	Birthdays of Tien Kung (Chinese)
	Birthdays of HE Yang di-Pertua Negeri Melaka	Chap Goh Meh (Chinese)
	Hol Day of Negeri Pahang	Maha Siva Rathiri (Indian)
	Hol Day of Almarhum Sultan Ismail (Johor)	Pangguni Uthiram (Indian)
	Federal Territory Day	Ugadi (Indian)
	Declaration of Melaka as Historical City	Vasakhi (Sikh)
	Terengganu's Sultan Installation Day	Tamil New Year (Indian)
	New Year (Except - Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis & Terengganu)	Chithira Paurnami (Indian)
	First Day of Ramadhan (Muslim - Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor & Terengganu)	Ascension Day (Christians)
	Nuzul Al-Quran (Muslim - Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor & Terengganu)	Seven Princesses Celebration (Chinese)
	Isra' & Mi'raj (Muslim - Kedah, Negeri Sembilan & Perlis)	Sri Krishna Jayanthi (Indian)
	Thaipusam (Indian - Johor, Negeri Sembilan, Perak, Pulau Pinang & Selangor)	Vinayaga Chaturthi (Indian)
	Good Friday (Christians - Sabah & Sarawak)	Birthdays of Kew Ong Yah (Chinese)
	Rice Harvest Festival (Kadazans - Sabah)	Navarathi-Saraswathy Poojal Vijayathasami (Indian)
	Gawai Harvest Festival (Dayaks - Sarawak)	Kantha Sashthi (Indian)
		Loy Krathong (Siamese)
		All Saints Day (Christians)
		Guru Nanak Day (Sikhs)
		Thung Chih Festival (Chinese)



Children of today ... leaders of tomorrow.







## ORIGIN OF THE CONFERENCE OF RULERS

One has to bear in mind that the Rulers were once absolute monarchs, having legislative, executive and judicial powers. They ran their states according to their own policies assisted by various categories of titular officials. In the days of the Melaka Sultanate, these officials were headed by the Bendahara (the equivalent of a modern Prime Minister).

The conquest of Melaka by the Portuguese in 1511, and the Dutch in 1641, did not alter the traditional structure of the Malay sultanates. The British intervened in the administration of the sultanates beginning from 1874. The Sultans remained sovereign Rulers but they were obliged by treaties to accept the advice of either the British Resident, Advisor or General-Advisor.

However, even before the British completed their political control of the Malay kingdoms (Terengganu was the last to accept a British Advisor in 1919), they had proceeded to consolidate their administrative position by, first, forming the Federated Malay States (comprising Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Pahang) in 1896, and then establishing a Federal Council in 1909, whose membership included the four Rulers, presided over by the British High Commissioner.

While the British maintained the myth of preserving the sovereignty of the Malay kingdoms, the Rulers were, in practice, left with only ceremonial and religious duties.

The First Durbar Conference (13-17 July 1897) was held at the Istana Negara, Kuala Kangsar, Perak. This palace which was completed in 1895 was the inspiration of HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Idris Murshidul'adzam Shah and designed by John Craig Wilson from the Public Works Department, Perak. This building, situated at Changkat Negara, Bukit Chandan, Kuala Kangsar was demolished in 1930 and at its site a new Palace was built, known as Istana Iskandariah taking after the name of Sultan Iskander Shah who was responsible for its construction.

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "DURBAR"

On 1 July 1896, the British established the Federated Malay States (FMS) and almost immediately decided that there should be a meeting of the Rulers to enable the British to identify problems faced by the Malay States. The British chose to call this meeting a Durbar. It was an Urdu-Persian word (*Darbar* means royal court or court of a native ruler). It also meant a public audience or public reception held by a native prince or by a British Governor or Viceroy. It was a term commonly used in India. It was hoped that the Durbar would help to foster better ties between the Rulers and the British.

The Durbar was at first scheduled to be held in the latter part of 1896, but the illness of Sultan Abdul Samad (Selangor) was among the reasons which led to its postponement and it was eventually held in Kuala Kangsar on 13 July 1897. It lasted four days. It was attended by Sultan Idris Murshidul'adzam Shah of Perak, Sultan Ahmad of Pahang, Sultan Abdul Samad of Selangor, and Yamtuan Besar Muhammad of Negeri Sembilan.

Representing the British were Sir Charles Mitchell (Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner of the FMS), Frank Swettenham (first Resident-General of the FMS), Hugh Clifford (British Resident of Pahang), J.P.Rodger (British Resident of Selangor), and W.H.Treachler (British Resident of Perak). Negeri Sembilan was not represented as its Resident, Martin Lister, had passed away in February 1897.

Kuala Kangsar was chosen as the venue of the first Durbar because of the confidence the British had in Sultan Idris whom they regarded as an enlightened Ruler. Until he passed away in 1916, Sultan Idris' opinion was often sought by the High Commissioner and used as the *raison d'être* for the formulation of any policy.

The second Durbar was held in July 1903 at Kuala Lumpur, the federal capital. Sir Frank Swettenham was then Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner of the FMS. The following were his summations of both the Conferences. On the first Conference, he wrote in his official report:

*From every point of view the meeting has been an unqualified success, and it is difficult to estimate now the present and prospective value of this unprecedented gathering of Malay Sultans, Rajas, and Chiefs. Never in the history of Malaya has any such assemblage been ever imagined. I doubt whether anybody has ever heard of one Ruler of a State making a ceremonial visit to another; but to have been able to collect together, in one place, the Sultans of Perak, Selangor, Pahang, and Negri Sembilan is a feat that might well have been regarded as impossible.*

*The deliberations of the Council were both interesting and useful, and there is no doubt that, in some respects, we could not have arrived at the same ends by any other means than the meeting of the Rajas of the Federated States and their responsible advisors. All the proceedings of the Council were conducted in the Malay language, and I am convinced that, if ever it were necessary to introduce interpretation, no such successful meetings as those just concluded could ever be held. The Sultans and all their chiefs spoke on all the subjects which interested them, without either hesitations or difficulty, and on matters concerning the (Islamic) religion, Malay customs, and questions which especially touch the well-being of Malays; it would be impossible to find elsewhere such knowledge and experience as is possessed by those present at the meetings.*

On the second Durbar, he observed:

*Again the deliberations of the assembly, after much interesting discussion, resulted in a number of important decisions chiefly connected with matters in which the Malay populations was specially concerned. This Conference was notable by the fact that the Rulers of all the western States were conveyed to Kuala Lumpur by train, only the Sultan of Pahang and his chiefs having to travel by sea, and also by reason of a remarkable speech delivered by the Sultan of Perak at the close of the proceedings, when HH gave a graphic account of British intervention in the Malay States, and the benefits which had been conferred on the country and people by the adoption of British methods of administration. The Sultan spoke freely of his own and his people's early suspicions and distrust of the white man and how they had gradually changed their minds.*

8 F.A. Swettenham, *British Malaya. An Account of the Origin and Progress of British Influence in Malaya*, London, 1906, rev. ed., 1948, p.289.

9 *ibid.*, p.291.



Group photograph in remembrance of the First Darbar Conference of the Federated Malay States held from 13 - 17 July 1897 at Istana Negara, Kuala Kangsar, Perak. This photograph was taken on 14 July 1897. This Conference was the first Conference of Rulers and Malay Dignitaries held where matters pertaining to religion, customs and subjects relevant to the Malays were discussed.

Seated from left to right: Hugh Clifford, Resident of Pahang; John Pickersgill Rodger, Resident of Selangor; Sir Frank Swettenham, Resident-General; HRH Sultan Ahmad, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Sultan Abdul Samad Sultan of Selangor; Sir Charles Mitchell, British High Commissioner to the Federated Malay States; HRH Sultan Idris, Sultan of Perak; HRH Tuanku Muhammad, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan and William Hood Treacher, Resident of Perak. Also present among others were: Dato' Shah Bandar, Haji Ahmad Sungai Ujung; Dato Kaya Indera Pahlawan Chenor; Dato' Kaya Shah Bandar Pekan; Dato' Kaya Setia Jaya Semantan Tok Bahaman; Toh Gajah; Mat Kilau; Mat Lila and a British Officer; standing and wearing a hat was Ernest Woodford Birch, son of James Birch, Resident of Perak who was murdered. At that time he was acting the office of the State Secretary of Perak.

But, in effect, beyond increasing the general stock of goodwill, the first Durbar had little administrative importance. The Conference was strictly advisory in nature. The subjects discussed were also limited and they formed only one item in a programme which included fish-drives, water sports, amateur theatricals, picnics at waterfalls, fireworks displays, and other forms of entertainment. Despite the importance that Swettenham attributed to the Conference, there was a lapse of six years before the second Conference was held. It was Swettenham himself who did not think it advisable to hold such meetings annually.<sup>10</sup>

The second Durbar was more meaningful. Despite the tribute which Sultan Idris paid to the British at the close of the proceedings, he had actually aired a number of grievances in the course of the meetings. He had urged the appointment of more Malays to the government service and to higher posts. He had also protested against the prevailing trend towards amalgamation. He said that he could not understand the "matter of union" (*persekutuan*) and quoted a Malay proverb which said that there could not be two helmsmen in one vessels; therefore there could not be four Rulers over one country.

He reminded the British that the Treaty of Pangkor had provided for a Resident-General to advise him; the affairs of each state ought to be managed by its own officers and their governments should remain separate entities.<sup>11</sup> But the British took no immediate steps to attend to the problems raised by Sultan Idris. A scheme to absorb Malays into the subordinate civil service was implemented only in 1910 but not as a direct result of the Durbar, and a policy of decentralization promulgated in 1927, but its implementation was delayed until the mid-1930s.

The Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan also put forward an important proposal - that Malay rather than English should be the official language of the Federation. It was more appropriate because it was the language of the common people as well as the ruling classes: "its use verbally and in documents would conduce to the general prosperity and comfort of the population".

W.H. Treacher (the Resident-General) politely disagreed. English, he said, was the language of the civil service, of large non-Malay portions of the population, of British India nearby, and of businessmen locally and in the great world of Europe and America. English won the battle.<sup>12</sup>

In the ensuing years the British actually took steps to strengthen the position of the federal government by establishing a Federal Council in 1909. This was initiated mainly by Swettenham's successor, Sir John Anderson, as the Governor of the Straits Settlements and the High Commissioner of the FMS. Included in the membership of the Council were the four Rulers. But the Council was presided by the High Commissioner. This was an attempt to assert his position as the Chief Executive of the Federation, whereas since 1896 the Resident-General was deemed to hold that position.

Because of their inclusion in the membership of the Federal Council, no Durbar was held until 1927, when the Council was restructured and the Rulers withdrew from it.

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10 Eunice Thio, *British Policy in the Malay Peninsula*, Kuala Lumpur, 1969, pp.177-178.

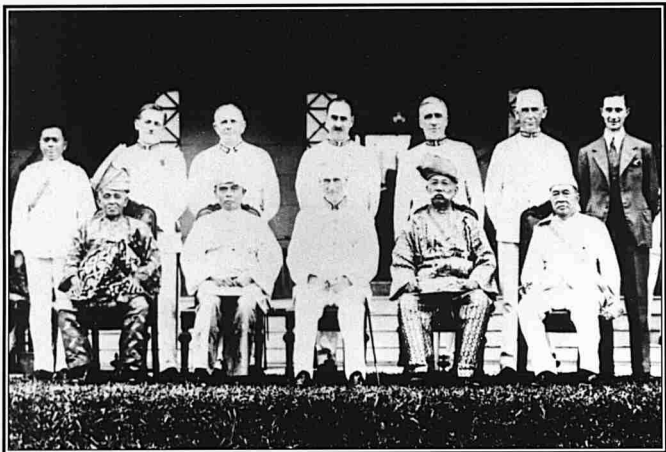
11 *ibid.*, p.185

12 Robert Heussler, *British Rule in Malaya: The Malayan Civil Service and Its Predecessors, 1867-1942*, Westport, Connecticut, 1981, p.18.



Group photograph in remembrance of the Second Durbar Conference held at Kuala Lumpur on 20 July 1903.

Seated from left to right: William Hood Treacher, Resident-General to the Federated Malay States; HRH Sultan Alaiddin Sulaiman, Sultan of Selangor; HRH Sultan Idris, Sultan of Perak; Sir Frank Swettenham, Governor for the Straits Settlements and also British High Commissioner to the Federated Malay States; HRH Sultan Ahmad Maatham, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Tuanku Muhammad, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; Walter Egerton, Resident of Negeri Sembilan.



Group photograph before the Fifth Durbar Conference at Seri Menanti, Negeri Sembilan on 18 August 1931

Seated from left to right: HRH Sultan Abdullah, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Iskandar Shah, Sultan of Perak; Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, British High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States; HRH Tuanku Muhammad, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; and HRH Sultan Sulaiman Shah, Sultan of Selangor.

Standing from left to right: Raja Uda, ADC to HRH Sultan Abdullah; ADC to Sir Cecil Clementi Smith; H.G.R. Leonard, British Resident of Pahang; B.W. Caldecott, Acting Chief Secretary to the Government (FMS); J.W.W. Hughes, Acting British Resident of Negeri Sembilan; J.W. Simmons, British Resident of Selangor; J.S. Macpherson, Acting District Officer of Kuala Pilah (Secretary to the Durbar and later appointed to the post of Secretary to the Colonial Office London).

## *Revival of the Durbar (1927-1939)*

The end of World War 1, witnessed important changes made to the administration of the Malay states. The British finally coerced Terengganu into accepting a British Advisor. It was the last of the Malay states to sign a treaty "inviting" the British to appoint an officer to advise the Ruler.

With their influence well established over the entire Malay Peninsula, the stage was set for the British to begin to bring all the states closer together. But in order to do so, the Rulers in the unfederated states must be persuaded that they would not suffer any reduction in their power by doing so. To convince them the British proceeded, firstly, to reconstitute the Federal Council. The Rulers withdrew from the Council. Instead, four Malay representatives (one from each state) were appointed. However, the Perak representative, Raja Chulan, was already a member of the Council since 1924. Secondly, in the same year (1927), the Governor of the Straits Settlements and the High Commissioner of the FMS, Sir Laurence Guillemard, announced a policy of Decentralization which when implemented would lead to some measure of administrative power being returned to each of the federated states.

The policy of Decentralization was, however, opposed by the European and Asian business community which feared that it could lead to a decline in administrative efficiency. The most vehement opponent of the policy was Sir George Maxwell, the Chief Secretary (the previous title was Resident-General) of the FMS. The relationship between each Resident-General/Chief Secretary and each High Commissioner, in general, had long been difficult because each attempted to assert his position as the Chief Executive of the FMS. The overall result was that the move to implement Decentralization began on a more serious note only in the mid-1930s when Sir Shenton Thomas was the Governor and High Commissioner.

Meanwhile the resuscitated Durbar met for the first time in August 1927, again at Kuala Kangsar, just before Guillemard's departure from the country. It was meant to help achieve the central political objective of the Decentralization policy, namely the formation of a United Malaya. The Durbar, it was felt, would facilitate mutual contacts not only among the Rulers in the FMS, but also, at a later date, between the Rulers of the FMS and those of the unfederated states.<sup>13</sup>

Guillemard's successor, Sir Hugh Clifford, who many years earlier had served in the Malay states, did not seriously pursue the Decentralization policy. He was throughout unwell and was succeeded by Sir Cecil Clementi in 1930. It was during Clementi's term of office that the Durbar gained greater attention. In the same year of his arrival, the fourth Durbar was held in October in Singapore. It was the first time that the Conference was held outside the FMS and it was also the first time that Rulers from the unfederated states were invited to attend.

Clementi campaigned vigorously to effect administrative reforms and publicly announced his vision for Malaya at the Seri Menanti Durbar held on 18 August 1931. On this occasion the Rulers of the unfederated states were not invited. Clementi later explained to the Federal Council and Straits Legislative Council his plan for a general Malayan union and for Decentralization in the FMS.<sup>14</sup>

13 See Kalyan Kumar Chosh, *Twentieth-Century Malaya: Politics of Decentralization of Power, 1920-1929*, Calcutta, 1977.

14 Rupert Emerson, *Malaysia: A Study in Direct and Indirect Rule*, New York, 1937, p.314.

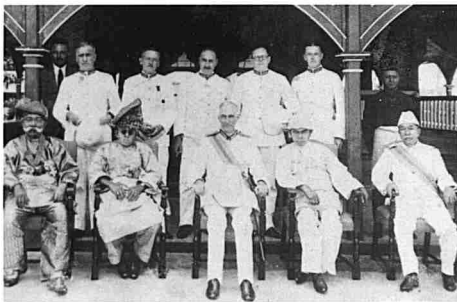


In his view, the main stumbling block to securing greater cohesion among the various Malay states was the departure of the FMS from its original conception which was that the four states should be placed "on very much the same constitutional basis" as the unfederated states. There was, therefore, a need to loosen the federal knot which had become too closely tied in order that "its loops might be extended to include the other political entities of the Peninsula". This he saw as a step which would lead to an increased understanding among all the Malay states in matters of common interest and, at a further remove, "to the emergence of a brother of Malay nations, each proudly guarding its historical individuality and autonomy, but joining hands with the rest in enterprise that may be for the good of the Malays of this Peninsula as a whole and of the immigrants of other races who have made this country their home."<sup>15</sup>

Clementi steadfastly and quite undiplomatically pursued his aim of delegating more political and administered power to the Malay Rulers and their state governments which was tantamount to reducing the power then held by the Federal Government at Kuala Lumpur. But while he gained the confidence of the Rulers and the Durbar became the means by which the Rulers openly voiced their concern for the future of the Malays, in particular the lack of control over immigration, he antagonized the business community and the bureaucracy as well. He was recalled in 1934.

It was under his successor, Sir Thomas Shenton Thomas, that steps were taken to decentralize, and during Sir Thomas' tenure, two other Durbars were held before the outbreak of war, one in 1937 and the last on 25 November 1939 at Klang, Selangor.

Although the Durbar was introduced originally to serve as a purely advisory body, it became an institution which gained credence as the authoritative voice of the Malays because British policies then had to be publicly defended often on the grounds that they represented the wishes of the Rulers. The Colonial Office, in general, chose to accommodate such wishes as from a legal viewpoint that the Sultans were sovereign Rulers. As Abdul Aziz Bari remarked: "In a sense the Durbar crystallized the Rulers' collective capacity as the guardian of the Malays."<sup>16</sup>



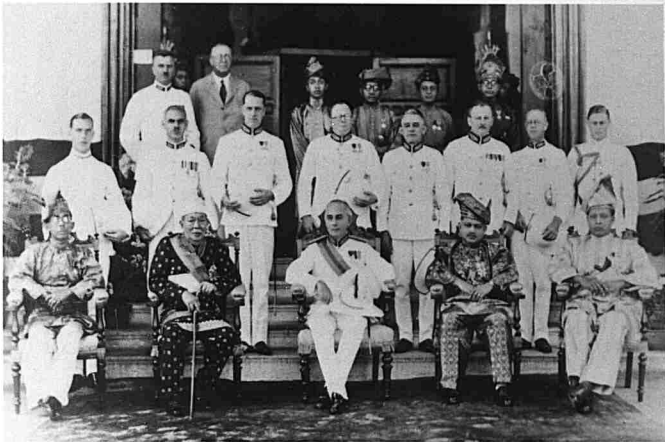
Group photograph before the Sixth Durbar Conference at Istana Kuning, Pekan, Pahang on 28 April 1932.

Seated from left to right: HRH Tuanku Muhammad ibni Almarhum Tuanku Antah, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; HRH Sultan Abdullah, Sultan of Pahang; Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, British High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States; HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Iskandar Shah, Sultan of Perak; HRH Sultan Sulaiman Shah, Sultan of Selangor.

Standing were the British Residents for the States of Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak and Selangor.

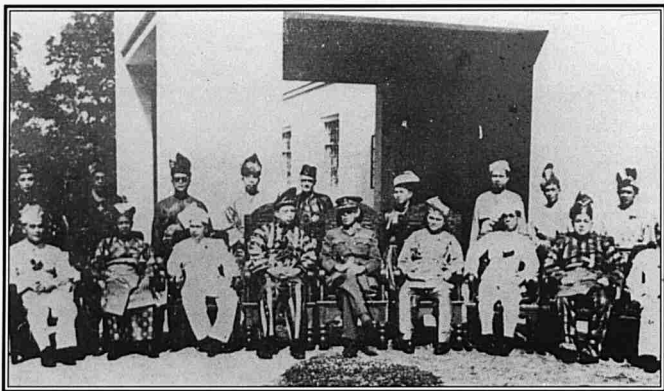
<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, psp.314-315

<sup>16</sup> See Abdul Aziz Bari, 'The Development and Role of Constitutional Monarchy in Malaysia', Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of Birmingham, 1996.



Group photograph in remembrance of the Ninth and the last Durbar Conference on 25 November 1939 at Klang, Selangor.

Seated from left to right: HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Abdul Aziz, Sultan of Perak; HRH Sultan Sulaiman Shah, Sultan of Selangor; Sir Shenton Thomas, British High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, Governor of Singapore; HRH Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; HRH Sultan Abu Bakar, Sultan of Pahang.



Group photograph before the first Conference of Rulers of the Malay States held at the Dewan Mesyuarat Undangan Persekutuan, Kuala Lumpur on 18 February 1948.

Seated from left to right: HRH Tengku Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Muhammad IV, Sultan of Kelantan; HRH Tengku Badlishah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, Sultan of Kedah; HRH Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Alaiddin Sulaiman Shah, Sultan of Selangor; HRH Sultan Abu Bakar, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar (who chaired the Conference); HRH Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Abdul Aziz Al-Musta'zimu Billah Shah, Sultan of Perak; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis; and partly seen was HRH Sultan Ismail ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin, Sultan of Terengganu.

Standing from left to right: Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Setia Raja, Menteri Besar of Kelantan; Y.A.B. Dato' Haji Mohamad Shariff, Menteri Besar of Kedah; Y.A.B. Dato' Hamzah bin Abdullah, Menteri Besar of Selangor; Y.A.B. Dato' Muhamad bin Mat; Menteri Besar of Pahang; Y.A.B. Dato' Onn bin Jaafar, Menteri Besar of Johor; Y.A.B. Abdul Malek bin Yusof, Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan; Y.A.B. Dato' Panglima Bukit Gantang, Menteri Besar of Perak; Y.A.B. Raja Haji Ahmad bin Raja Endut, Menteri Besar of Perlis; and Y.A.B. Tengku Panglima Perang Pahang, Menteri Besar of Terengganu.



The Conference of Rulers with the attendance of Sir Henry Gurney, British High Commissioner to the Federation of Malaya after the ceremony for the raising of the new flag of the Federation of Malaya held at Istana Selangor, Kuala Lumpur on 26 May 1950.

**B**etween 1948 and 1957, there were 50 meetings of the Conference. Notable contributions which were significant to the welfare of the Malays may be noted as follows:

1. The establishment of the Rulers' Scholarship Fund (8th Meeting 1949).
2. Restrictions of immigrant labour from China and India.
3. The use of the Malay language as the official language, though not as the national language.

Initially, Dato' Onn Jaafar, Dato' Panglima Bukit Gantang, Dato' Abdul Wahab, Dato' Nik Ahmad Kamil Mahmood, and Dato' Hamzah bin Abdullah, who were Menteri Besar of Johor, Perak, Kelantan and Selangor respectively, played significant roles at the meetings of the Conference.

*"The conference is the most august assembly in the country. While it has no power to make laws or levy taxes or sanction public expenditure, it is most influential. It provides an intimate link between the Federal Government and the State Governments at the highest level. Its meetings, attended by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Prime Minister on behalf of the Federal Government, and by all Rulers and Yang di-Pertua Negeri each with their Menteri Besar or Chief Minister, provide them with an opportunity of discussing matters of common concern that trouble any of them and as its discussions are private, they can be most frank, albeit courteous. For his part the Prime Minister has a valuable forum at which to explain federal policies already decided and policies as yet to be decided".*"

The Conference of Rulers is not only august, but unique, because it is the only institution of such a nature existing in the world today.

It is also supreme in some sense, because some of the provisions in the Constitution cannot be amended by Parliament alone, they must first get the consent of the Conference. Such provisions are:

1. The amendment to Article 153 concerning the privileges of the Malays and natives and the rights of other races.
2. The amendment to Article 152 relating to the Malay language as the national and official language.
3. The amendment to other provisions (see Chapter 7)

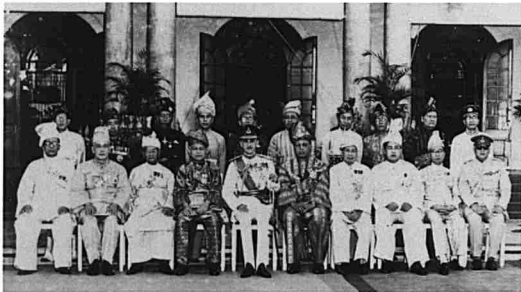
Laws making alterations to the boundaries of States can be formulated by Parliament apart from a law made by the legislature of the states concerned. However, they also require the consent of the Conference of Rulers. This is provided for in Article 2 of the Federal Constitution.

The provision of Article 2 in relation to the alteration of state boundary was invoked three times in the history of our country:

1. The establishment of the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur in 1973, which was carved out from the State of Selangor;
2. The settlement of boundary disputes between the States of Kedah and Pulau Pinang.
3. The creation of the Federal Territory of Labuan in 1984.

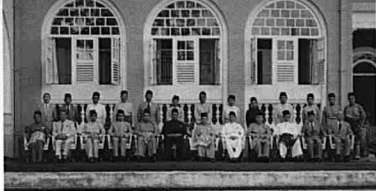
#### INTERESTING INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONFERENCE

- The Conference gives more weight to the representation of the states. However, when they meet as a group, the members are entitled to speak on anything which goes beyond the boundaries of their states.
- The Chairmanship of the Conference is on a rotational basis among the nine Rulers. In this way, all the Rulers will have the opportunity to become the Chairman once in three years. The Chairman takes precedence during the Conference over his brother Rulers, no matter how junior he is, with the only exception of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong because of the provision of the Constitution. In other words, if the most junior Ruler chairs a Conference, he will be sitting next to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, if the latter attends the meeting on the second day of the Conference. Otherwise, on the first day, the Chairman will sit in the Chairman's chair, followed by the most senior Ruler sitting next to him. The back of the chair which is occupied by the Chairman is six inches higher than the chair occupied by the other members.



Group photograph in conjunction with the 25th Conference of Rulers and as a mark of farewell to General Sir Gerald Walter Robert Templer (British High Commissioner to the Federation of Malaya) at Istana Selangor, Taylor Road, Kuala Lumpur on 25 February 1954.

Seated from left to right: HRH Sultan of Perak, Paduka Seri Sultan Yusuff Izuddin Shah; HRH Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Ibrahim; HRH Sultan of Kedah, Sultan Badlishah; HRH Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Abdul Rahman; General Sir Gerald Walter Robert Templer; HRH Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah; HRH Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah; HRH Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Putra; HRH Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah; HRH Tengku Mahkota Johor, Tunku Ismail.



Group photograph in remembrance of the 49th Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur on 5 February 1959.

**Seated from left to right:** HE Raja Tun Uda bin Raja Muhammad, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Pulau Pinang; HRH Tuanku Ismail ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Regent of Johor; HRH Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah; HRH Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin, Sultan of Terengganu; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis; HRH Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Al-Mu'tasimu Bi'llah Sultan Abdullah, Sultan of Pahang; HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad; HRH Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Alaiddin Sulaiman Shah, Sultan of Selangor; HRH Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Mohamed IV, Sultan of Kelantan; HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Jalil Raziallah Hu'an'hu, Sultan of Perak; HRH Tunku Munawir ibni Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Regent of Negeri Sembilan; HE Tun Leong Yew Koh, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka.

**Standing from left to right:** Y.A.B. Dato' Wong Poo Nee, Chief Minister of Pulau Pinang; Y.A.B. Dato' Wan Idris bin Ibrahim, Menteri Besar of Johor; Y.A.B. Tunku Ismail bin Tunku Yahya, Menteri Besar of Kedah; Y.A.B. Dato' Hj. Kamaruddin bin Idris, Menteri Besar of Terengganu; Y.A.B. Dato' Laksamana Hj. Mohamed Razalli bin Hj. Mohamed Ali Wangsa, Menteri Besar of Perlis; Y.A.B. Dato' Abdullah bin Tok Muda Hj. Ibrahim, Menteri Besar of Pahang; Y.A.B. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya; Y.A.B. Encik Abdul Jamil bin Abdul Rais, Menteri Besar of Selangor; Y.A.B. Tunku Mohamed Hamzah bin Tengku Zainal Abidin, Menteri Besar of Kelantan; Y.A.B. Encik Mohamed Ghazali bin Jawi, Menteri Besar of Perak; Y.A.B. Dato' Shamsuddin bin Naim, Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan; Y.A.B. Dato' Osman bin Talib, Chief Minister of Melaka; and Encik Abdul Rahim bin Abdul Rauf, Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.



Group photograph of the Members of the First Cabinet of the Federation of Malaya after independence taken in front of Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur following the taking of the Oath of Office Ceremony on 22 August 1959.

**Seated from left to right:** Y.B. Encik Sulaiman bin Dato' Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs and Law, Y.B. Dr. Ismail bin Dato' Abdul Rahman, Minister without portfolio/Ambassador to the United Nations; Y.A.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj, First Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya; HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad; Y.A.B. Dato' Abdul Razak bin Husain, Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Defence; Y.B. Encik V.T. Sambanthan, Minister of Health, and Y.B. Encik Abdul Aziz bin Isahak, Minister of Agriculture.

**Standing from left to right:** Y.B. Encik Mohd. Khir Johari, Minister of Education; Y.B. Encik Abdul Rahman Haji Talib, Minister of Transport; Y.B. Encik Ong Yoke Lin, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare; Y.B. Encik Sardon bin Hj. Jubir, Minister of Public Works and Posts; Y.B. Encik Tan Siew Sin, Minister of Trade and Industries, and Y.B. Encik Bahaman bin Samsudin, Minister of Natural Resources.

- The only surviving member of the Conference who signed the Federation of Malaya Agreement 1948 is the Raja of Perlis. HRH has a wealth of historical information of the Conference dating back to more than half a century. His Royal Highness has a vivid recollection of some incidents.
- In the Pre-Council Meetings, the daily terms in family talk are often used. "Abang", "adik", "ayah", "anak", "atik", "cucu", "kita", are words of endearment used interchangeably with "Beta", "Kita", "Kekanda", "Adinda", "Ayahanda", "Bonda", "Nenda", "Cucunda" in formal meetings.
- The Seal consists of the coat-of-arms of the nine Malay States in alphabetical order. The Seal was made in England in 1948.
- The Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal was established some half a century ago and is not known to the general public except on the eves of *Ramadhan* or the *Eids*. The Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal is the Secretariat of the Conference which coordinates the duties of the Private Secretaries of the *Istana*s.
- King George VI sent a greeting to the Conference on the first meeting held on 18 February 1948, through the British High Commissioner to the then Federation of Malaya. A message was written in English in the Minute Book of the Conference by the High Commissioner himself.
- The Minutes of the meetings of the Conference from the first to the thirteenth Conference were written by hand in the Jawi script and were recorded as such. Only the minutes of the fifteenth meeting were typewritten in the Jawi script. The minutes of later meetings were written in Romanised Malay script. However, the minutes of the seventeenth meeting were recorded in English until the forty-second meeting. HRH the Raja of Perlis recalled that the British High Commissioner who had just assumed office did not understand Malay very well, i.e. the Jawi script. At his request, the minutes were written in English. A few meetings after that, some of the Rulers did not understand English, but by then, the British High Commissioner had acquired some knowledge of the Malay language and the minutes were then again recorded in the Malay language as both the Rulers and the British High Commissioner were able to comprehend the language.
- Some meetings are held outside Kuala Lumpur to give an opportunity to the various states to host the Conference. The public at large looks forward for the Conference to be held in their state. Each state has an opportunity of hosting the Conference once in 14 years. Sarawak, however, has hosted two meetings.
- Whenever a meeting is held outside Kuala Lumpur, two dinners are scheduled. The first is hosted by Istana Negara, held on the first day, and the second by the host state on the second day. The two dinners are the Gala Dinners of the Year.
- If the Conference is held in Kuala Lumpur, most of the members of the Conference and the Heads of Government will make their own arrangements for accommodation and other services, but if it is held outside Kuala Lumpur, the host states provide such facilities.
- When a group photograph is taken on the second day of the Conference, every Ruler and the Yang di-Pertua Negeri is accompanied by his Menteri Besar or Chief Minister who will be standing behind the Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri. However, the person who stands behind the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is not the Prime Minister, but the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal. The Prime Minister is always seated on the far left end.



The 112th Conference of Rulers (second day) convened at Pulau Pinang on 28 September 1978.

From left to right:

HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj, Sultan of Selangor; Y.A.B. Dato' Hussein Onn, Prime Minister of Malaysia; HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis; Y.A.B. Dato' Haji Jaafar bin Hassan, Menteri Besar of Perlis; HRH Tuanku Haji Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah and Y.A.B. Dato' Syed Nahar bin Tun Syed Sheh Sahabuddin, Menteri Besar of Kedah.



The 131st Conference of Rulers which was convened at Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu on 11 July 1984.





Tea session after the 141st Conference of Rulers (second day) which was convened at Kota Bharu, Kelantan on 28 July 1987.



The 154th Conference of Rulers (second day) which was convened at Istana Negara on 13 June 1991.

From left to right:

HRH Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, the Sultan of Kedah; Y.A.B. Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia; HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuff Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-lah; HRH Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman (the Ruler who chaired the Conference); Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Hj. Abdul Samad, Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail and Y.A.B. Dr. Abdul Hamid bin Pawan Teh, Menteri Besar of Perlis.

- Whenever the Conference needs to elect a new Yang di-Pertuan Agong, only Rulers are present. The Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri are excluded. A Ruler cannot send a representative. Whenever a Ruler is unable to attend the special Conference, he may delegate his proxy to another brother Ruler. The past ten special meetings of the Conference to elect a Yang di-Pertuan Agong witnessed a full attendance, except the one in 1960.
- The person closest to all the Rulers is the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal. Besides being Secretary to the Conference, he is also more or less a Coordinator and Facilitator for the Private Secretaries of the Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri.
- On the day that the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong takes office, a special Conference is held to witness the oath taking ceremony and the handing of the Instrument of Office by the Prime Minister. On this occasion, the Rulers are dressed in their respective ceremonial Malay dresses according to the styles of the various states. Similarly, on the day when the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is installed, it is held with pomp, glory and colour. The installation is accompanied by a celebration on a grandeur scale attended by the VVIPs including Cabinet Ministers, Diplomats, Judges, Members of Parliament, Heads of Department and their wives.
- The installation of the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong was held at the Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman at Jalan Ampang, now housing a tourism centre. The Seventh to Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong were installed at the Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.
- When the Rulers and Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri are busy attending meetings of the Conference, the consorts of the Rulers, and the wives of the Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri, the Menteri-Menteri Besar and the Chief Ministers have special programmes arranged for them. Normally, visits to interesting places are arranged. They may visit handicraft centres or shops, or have a round of golf.



The 173rd Conference of Rulers (second day) which was convened at A Famosa Resort, Alor Gajah, Melaka on 11 July 1996.

From left to right:

Y.A.B. Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak; HE Tun Datuk Patinggi (Dr.) Hj. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce bin Muhammed Noor, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Muhammad bin Haji Muhammad Taib, Menteri Besar of Selangor; HH Tengku Azman Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj, Regent of Selangor; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ramli bin Ngah Taib, Menteri Besar of Perak; HRH Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yusuff Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-lah, Sultan of Perak; Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Sanusi bin Junid, Menteri Besar of Kedah; HRH Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah; Y.A.B. Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia; HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman; HRH Tuanku Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra, Sultan of Kelantan (the Ruler who chaired the Conference); Y.B. Tuan Haji Abdul Halim bin Abdul Rahman, Deputy Menteri Besar of Kelantan; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis; Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Menteri Besar of Perlis; HRH Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Al Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, Sultan of Terengganu; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Wan Mokhtar bin Ahmad, Menteri Besar of Terengganu; HRH Tuanku Naquiyuddin ibni Tuanku Ja'afar, Regent of Negeri Sembilan; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Haji Abdul Samad, Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan and HE Tun Datuk Seri Utama Syed Ahmad Alhaj bin Syed Mahmud Shahabudin, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka.



Group photograph taken before the 174th Conference of Rulers in the compound of the Istana Negara on 6 November 1996.

From left to right: HE Tun Dato' Seri (Dr.) Hajj Hamdan bin Sheikh Tahir, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Pulau Pinang; HRH Tunku Naqiyuddin ibni Tuanku Ja'afar, Regent of Negeri Sembilan; HRH Tuanku Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra, Al-Sultan of Kelantan; HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj, Sultan of Selangor; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis; HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman; HRH Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Tuanku Al Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, Sultan of Terengganu (the Ruler who chaired the Conference); HRH Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah; HRH Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yusof Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-Jah, Sultan of Perak; HE Tun Datuk Seri Utama Syed Ahmad Alhaj bin Syed Mahmud Shahabudin, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka; HE Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran bin Dandal, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah.



The Installation Ceremony of HM the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad held at Dewan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Kuala Lumpur on 13 September 1957. In front of HM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong is Dato' Mustafa Al-Bakri, the Keeper of the Rulers' Seat.



*Keris Panjang Diraja*, carried by HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong during the Installation Ceremony as a symbol of power and authority. An artistic impression by HM Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

The institution of monarchy is a source of power and authority, of governance and of government. It is a symbol of supremacy, majesty, tranquility, loyalty, and is a fountain of justice, and of mercy. In countries that practise parliamentary democracy under a system of constitutional monarchy, the power of the people is vested in Parliament, and Parliament vests the executive power on the Cabinet. However, each and every act of authority is executed in the name of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong who acts on the advice of the government.

In a Federal system of government, where there are many Rulers, a Council or Conference is established where the Rulers meet and discuss as a group. In certain matters, the Constitution requires the government to get advice and seek consultation from the Rulers. In the election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, that power is vested in the Conference. Similarly, in the amendment to certain provisions of the Constitution and also of appointments, the Conference is consulted.

Malaysia practises a system of Constitutional Monarchy in a parliamentary democracy at two levels: Federal and State. At the Federal level, the Head of State is Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong, while the head of government is the Prime Minister. At the state level, the head of state is known by various names such as Sultan, Raja or Yang di-Pertuan Besar and the Yang di-Pertua Negeri while the head of government is the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister.

Like many other constitutional monarchies, such as Great Britain, Thailand, Japan, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Spain, Malaysia has a King. But unlike them, our King reigns only for five years on a rotational

basis among his brother Rulers. He is elected as the Supreme Head of the Federation and Article 32 of the Constitution provides that he takes precedence over all persons in Malaysia. Next comes his consort, the Raja Permaisuri Agong. They are followed (as provided by Article 70 of the Constitution) by other Rulers according to seniority and the Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri, also according to seniority.

## THE OFFICE OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

This chapter will indeed be incomplete if no mention is made about the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, a creation of the Constitution whose election is the prerogative of the Conference of Rulers. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong exercises the following functions:

- 1) **Head of State:** The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the Supreme Head of the Federation who takes precedence over all persons. This is provided for in Article 32 of the Federal Constitution.
- 2) **Legislative Function:** The legislative authority of the Federation is vested in Parliament and, by virtue of Article 44 of the Federal Constitution, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is one of the components of Parliament.
- 3) **Executive Function:** The executive authority of the Federation is vested by Article 39 of the Constitution in the Yang di-Pertuan Agong but Article 40 stipulates that he must act on advice, except in certain specified instances.
- 4) **Judicial Function:** He is the fountain of justice, and he appoints the Chief Justice of the Federal Court, the President of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Judges of the High Courts and judges of the Federal Court, Court of Appeal and High Courts. This is provided for in Article 122b of the Federal Constitution.
- 5) **Military Function:** The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the Supreme Commander of the armed forces of the Federation. This is provided for in Article 41 of the Federal Constitution.
- 6) **Religious Function:** Article 3 of the Federal Constitution requires that the Constitution of the states of Melaka, Pulau Pinang, Sabah and Sarawak make provision for conferring on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong the position of Head of the religion of Islam in those states. He is also the Head of the religion of Islam in the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan and in his own state.
- 7) **Power of Pardon:** The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the fountain of mercy and has power to grant pardons, reprieves and respites in respect of all offences tried by court-martial and all offences committed in the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan. This is provided for in Article 42 of the Federal Constitution.
- 8) **Diplomatic Function:** As Head of State, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong appoints Malaysian diplomats overseas and receives foreign diplomats posted to Malaysia.
- 9) **Fountain of Honours and Dignities:** The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the fountain of honours and dignities. He confers awards and honours to citizens and non-citizens alike and decorates foreign heads of state in investitures which are in conjunction with his Birthday or on National Day.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, in his various capacities as enumerated above, also graces various occasions and ceremonies.

TABLE 5.1  
LIST OF SERI PADUKA BAGINDA YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

Y.D.P.A	NAME OF YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG	STATE	PERIOD OF REIGN
1st	Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad	Negeri Sembilan	31.8.1957 – 01.4.1960
2nd	Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Alaiddin Sulaiman Shah	Selangor	14.4.1960 – 01.9.1960
3rd	Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail	Perlis	21.9.1960 – 20.9.1965
4th	Tuanku Al Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin	Terengganu	21.9.1965 – 20.9.1970
5th	Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbudin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah	Kedah	21.9.1970 – 20.9.1975
6th	Al-Sultan Tuanku Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim	Kelantan	21.9.1975 – 29.3.1979
7th	Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah	Pahang	26.4.1979 – 25.4.1984
8th	Sultan Iskandar ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail	Johor	26.4.1984 – 25.4.1989
9th	Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-lah	Perak	26.4.1989 – 25.4.1994
10th	Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman	Negeri Sembilan	26.4.1994 – 25.4.1999



TABLE 5.2  
LIST OF TIMBALAN YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

TIMBALAN Y.D.P.A	NAME OF TIMBALAN YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG	STATE	PERIOD OF REIGN
1st	Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Alaliddin Sulaiman Shah	Selangor	31.8.1957 – 01.4.1960
2nd	Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail	Perlis	14.4.1960 – 01.9.1960
3rd	Tuanku Al Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin	Terengganu	21.9.1960 – 20.9.1965
4th	Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhbbudin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah	Kedah	21.9.1965 – 20.9.1970
5th	Tuanku Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim	Kelantan	21.9.1970 – 20.9.1975
6th	Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'Ayatuddin Al-Mu'Adzam Shah	Pahang	21.9.1975 – 29.3.1979
7th	Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman	Negeri Sembilan	26.4.1979 – 25.4.1984
8th	Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-lah	Perak	26.4.1984 – 25.4.1989
9th	Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman	Negeri Sembilan	26.4.1989 – 25.4.1994
10th	Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj	Selangor	26.4.1994 – 25.4.1999



Installation Ceremony of HM the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara on 18 September 1989. In front of HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong is Tengku Datuk Mustaffa bin Tengku Muhamad the Grand Chamberlain of Istana Negara.

**Article 32**

**SUPREME HEAD OF THE FEDERATION, AND HIS CONSORT**

- (1) There shall be a Supreme Head of the Federation, to be called the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who shall take precedence over all persons in the Federation and shall not be liable to any proceedings whatsoever in any court, except in the Special Court established under Part XV.
- (2) The Consort of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (to be called the Raja Permaisuri Agong) shall take precedence next after the Yang di-Pertuan Agong over all other persons in the Federation.
- (3) The Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be elected by the Conference of Rulers for a term of five years, but may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Conference of Rulers or be removed from office by the Conference of Rulers, and shall cease to hold office on ceasing to be a Ruler.
- (4) The provisions of Parts I and III of the Third Schedule shall apply to the election and removal of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

TABLE 5.4

**Fourth Schedule**

**Part III**

**OATH OF OFFICE OF YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**

We ..... ibni ..... Yang  
di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia do hereby swear:

Wallahi;

Wabillahi;

Watallahi;

and by virtue of that oath do solemnly and truly declare that We shall justly and faithfully perform (carry out) our duties in the administration of Malaysia in accordance with its laws and constitution which have been promulgated or which may be promulgated from time to time in the future. Further We do solemnly and truly declare that We shall at all time protect the religion of Islam and uphold the rules of law and order in the country.

(Translated version)



Oath of Office of Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

## 6 *Function of the Conference:*

# ELECTION OF YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

One of the major functions of the Conference of Rulers is the election of Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is elected by the Conference of Rulers in accordance with the rules and in the manner specified in the Third Schedule to the Constitution.

Tun Mohamed Suffian, the Former Lord President, observed several unusual features about the rules of election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.<sup>18</sup>

- First, only Rulers may stand.
- Secondly, only Rulers may vote.
- Thirdly, ordinarily the most senior Ruler should be elected.
- Fourthly, no state may have its Ruler elected Yang di-Pertuan Agong twice, until the Ruler of every state (who is willing and suitable) has had a chance of becoming Yang di-Pertuan Agong.
- When the Conference of Rulers meets to elect the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri are not present though they are members.
- Only the Rulers and the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal are present.
- A Ruler may appoint another Ruler as his proxy.
- Proceedings are kept secret.
- Voting slips are destroyed in the presence of the Rulers immediately after the result is announced.
- Ballot papers used are unnumbered and marked with the same pen and ink.
- The most junior Ruler is elected to count the votes together with the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.

The Constitution provides that a Ruler is qualified to be elected Yang di-Pertuan Agong unless :

- 1) he is a minor;
- 2) he has notified the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal that he does not desire to be elected; or

<sup>18</sup> Tun Mohamed Suffian, *ibid.*, p. 27

3) the Conference of Rulers by secret ballot resolves that he 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. This resolution requires the vote of at least five members.

Before an election, the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal writes to every Ruler to ask if he is willing to stand for the election. Rulers who do not desire to be elected so inform him, and their states go to the end of the list. At the election the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal issues to each Ruler a ballot paper in which the Ruler is asked to indicate whether or not in his opinion the most senior Ruler (who is willing), is suitable to be Yang di-Pertuan Agong. If at least five members vote him suitable, he is offered the office and, if he does not accept the office, the office is offered to the Ruler whose state is next on the list (who has been declared suitable by at least five votes) and so on until a Ruler accepts the office. When a Ruler to whom the office has been offered has accepted it, the Conference declares him elected and the Keeper notifies the result in writing to both Houses of Parliament, and to the Prime Minister.

For the purposes of the first election held a month before Merdeka (as was permitted by the Constitution), the election list comprised the states of all the Rulers in the order in which they then recognized precedence among themselves. This is provided for in subsection (1) of section 4 of the Third Schedule to the Federal Constitution.

For the purposes of subsequent elections the list was varied as follows:

- 1) after each election, any States preceding on the list, the State whose Ruler was elected were transferred in the order in which they were then listed at the end of the list, and the State whose Ruler was elected was omitted;
- 2) whenever there was a change in the Ruler of a State then on the list, that state was transferred to the end of the list (and if on the same day there was a change in the Rulers of more than one State, those States shall be transferred to the end of the list in the order in which they are then on the list).

In Table 6.1, the first column refers to the states according to the seniority of the Rulers in the order of which that has been accepted as precedence among themselves, i.e. in accordance with the dates of their accessions; the second column refers to the list of the states in the Year of Election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong; the third column refers to the states whose Rulers have been elected as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The running sequence of each column refers to the changes of the order of precedence during the period of the election. That part of the list, on the first to the sixth elections, is based, with modifications, on the list prepared by Tun Mohamed Suffian. The rest of the list is prepared by the author and checked by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.

#### **THE FIRST ROUND:**

##### *Election of the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1957*

For the first election in 1957, the election list comprised states of all the Rulers in the order in which they are then recognized as precedence among themselves (i.e. in accordance with their dates of accession). It will be observed that Johor and Pahang were top of the list and the Ruler of one or the other should have been elected; but instead the Ruler of Negeri Sembilan, third on the list, was elected Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Probably the Rulers of Johor and Pahang both stood down.

After the election of the Ruler of Negeri Sembilan as the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong the first list was varied. It will be noticed that the states of Johor and Pahang were then transferred to the end of the list, while Negeri Sembilan was taken out altogether. That state goes to another list.

The Sultan of Kedah passed away and was succeeded by his son on 15 July 1958. The Sultan of Johor passed away and was succeeded by his son on 8 May 1959. So the Rulers of Kedah and Johor went to the bottom of the list.

### *Election of the Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1960*

The First Yang di-Pertuan Agong passed away in Office on 1 April 1960 and the election list used for electing his successor was in the second column, the third paragraph. Nobody stood down or was disqualified, and the post was offered to the Sultan of Selangor who accepted. He assumed duty on 14 April 1960. Thereafter, Selangor was removed from the list, and that state was put below Negeri Sembilan in the third list of Rulers who had been Yang di-Pertuan Agong. (See the third column, the third paragraph).

The First Yang di-Pertuan Agong was from Negeri Sembilan. When he passed away in Office, not only the post of Yang di-Pertuan Agong fell vacant, but also that of the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan. Tuanku Munawir was elected by the *Undangs* as the Ruler of Negeri Sembilan, and his name was put down at the bottom of the list as in the first column, the third paragraph.

The Sultan of Kelantan passed away and he was succeeded by his son on 10 July 1960, and so Kelantan was transferred to the end of the list, the first column, the fourth paragraph.

### *Election of the Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1960*

The Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong passed away on 1 September 1960, and the list as in the first column, the fourth paragraph was used for electing his successor. Nobody stood down or was disqualified and the post was offered to the most senior Ruler, the Raja of Perlis, who accepted, and assumed duty on 21 September 1960. The list for the next election was varied by omitting Perlis from it and putting Perlis below Selangor in the list, the third column, the fourth paragraph. Thereafter the election list is as in the second column, the fifth paragraph.

The Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong was from Selangor. When he passed away in office, not only the post of Yang di-Pertuan Agong fell vacant, but also that of Selangor. HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah was appointed as the Sultan of Selangor, and his name was put down at the bottom of the list as in the first column, the fourth paragraph.

Then the Sultan of Perak passed away and was succeeded by HRH Sultan Idris on 4 January 1963. Perak was then transferred to the end of the list as in the first column, the fifth paragraph.

### *Election of the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1965*

The Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed his five-year term on 20 September 1965. The second column, the fifth paragraph was the election list used for electing his successor. Nobody stood down or was disqualified and the post was offered to the Sultan of Terengganu who accepted with effect from 21 September 1965. Terengganu was then transferred to the third list below Perlis, the third column, the fifth paragraph. The Sultan of Pahang declined the post of Timbalan (Deputy) Yang di-Pertuan Agong which was then offered to the Sultan of Kedah who accepted. The next election list then stood as in the second column, the sixth paragraph.

### *Election of the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1970*

The Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed his five-year term on 20 September 1970. The second column, the sixth paragraph was the election list used for electing his successor. It will be noted that the Sultan of Pahang was the most senior Ruler when Sultan of Terengganu was elected as the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. But he declined to stand and the Conference offered the post to the Sultan of Kedah who accepted, and thus became the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. After the election, the state of Pahang went to the bottom of the list, the second column, the sixth paragraph, and Kedah went to the bottom of the third list below Terengganu, the third column, the sixth paragraph.

The late Ruler of Pahang passed away on 5 May 1974 (the first column, the sixth paragraph) but his death caused no change, because Pahang was already at the bottom of the second list, the second column, the sixth paragraph.



### *Election of the Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1975*

The Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed his five-year term on 20 September 1975 and the election list used for electing his successor, is as follows: Johor, Kelantan, Perak and Pahang. The most senior Ruler, that of Johor, stood down thinking that he was too old, whereupon as the Ruler of Kelantan was declared suitable, the office was offered to him and he accepted. He is the Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The next senior Ruler, that of Perak, declined the office of the Timbalan which was then offered to the Ruler of Pahang who accepted and thus became the Sixth Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

### *Election of the Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1979*

The Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong passed away in office on 29 March 1979. The 114th Conference of Rulers was convened on 25 April 1979. There were three states on the list, *viz-a-viz*, Pahang, Johor, Perak. The Conference elected the Sultan of Pahang as the Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong. He took the oath of office on 26 April 1979.

The Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong came from Kelantan. When he died in office, not only the post of Yang di-Pertuan Agong fell vacant, but also that of the Sultan of Kelantan. HRH Tuanku Ismail Petra was appointed as Al-Sultan Kelantan, and his name was put down at the bottom of the list, the first column, the eighth paragraph.



Group photograph after the Oath of Office Ceremony by HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong, and Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong (the 166th Special Conference of Rulers) at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur on 26 April 1994.

Seated from left to right:

Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister; HRH Raja Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah, representing HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Perak; HE Tun Dato' Seri (Dr.) Hajj Hamdan bin Sheikh Tahir, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Pulau Pinang; HE Tun Datuk Pelinggi (Dr.) Hj. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce bin Muhammed Noor, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak; HRH Tunku Nasiruddin ibni Tuanku Ja'atar, Regent of Negeri Sembilan; HRH Tuanku Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra, Al-Sultan of Kelantan; HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj, Sultan of Selangor (Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong); HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis; HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'atar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman; HRH Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billah Muhibuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah; HRH Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Tuanku Al-Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, Sultan of Terengganu; HE Tun Datuk Seri Utama Syed Ahmad Alhaj bin Syed Mahmud Shahabuddin, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka; HE Tun Datuk Mohd. Said bin Keruak, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah; HH Tunku Ibrahim Ismail ibni Sultan Iskandar, representing HRH Baginda Sultan of Johor; and Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

In the same year, HRH Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah of Terengganu passed away and Terengganu, which was second on the Seniority List was transferred down to the bottom of the list.

In 1981, HRH Sultan Ismail of Johor passed away and Johor, which was fourth on the Seniority List was transferred down to the bottom of the list. In 1984, just two months before the eighth election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, HRH Sultan Idris of Perak passed away. Perak, which was seventh on the Seniority List was transferred to the bottom of the list, the first column, the eight paragraph.

#### *Election of the Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1984*

The Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed his term of office on 25 April 1984. There were two states on the List, *viz-a-viz*, Johor and Perak, the second column, the eighth paragraph. The 130th Conference of Rulers was convened and elected the Sultan of Johor as the Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, and the Sultan of Perak as his Deputy. HRH Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak had just accended the Perak throne two months earlier on 3 February 1984. Johor is now transferred to the bottom of the third list.



Standing from left to right: Y.A.B. Dr. Koh Tsu Koon, Chief Minister of Pulau Pinang; Y.A.B. Dato' Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Haji Abdul Samad, Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan; Y.A.B. Tuan Guru Haji Nik Abdul Aziz bin Nik Mat, Menteri Besar of Kelantan; Y.B. Dato Haji Abu Sujak bin Mahmud, Deputy Menteri Besar of Selangor (representative of Y.A.B. Menteri Besar of Selangor); Y.A.B. Dr. Abdul Hamid bin Pawanteh, Menteri Besar of Perlis; Y.M. Engku Datuk Ibrahim bin Engku Nigah, the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal of Malaysia; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Osman bin Haji Aroff, Menteri Besar of Kedah; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Mohd. Khalil bin Yaakob, Menteri Besar of Pahang; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Wan Moktar bin Ahmad, Menteri Besar of Terengganu; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri A. Rahim bin Dato' Thamy Chik, Chief Minister of Melaka; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Sakaran bin Dandal, Chief Minister of Sabah; and Y.A.B. Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd. Yassin, Menteri Besar of Johor.

### *Election of the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1989*

The Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed his term of office on 25 April 1989. There was only one state on the List, namely Perak (the second column, the tenth paragraph). HRH Sultan Azlan Shah had been appointed as the Ruler of Perak five years earlier, and the Conference elected him as the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. With this election, a full cycle is completed, whereby Rulers of all states have had the opportunity of being elected as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia. (The third column, the tenth paragraph)

### **THE SECOND ROUND:**

#### *Election of the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1994*

The first cycle was completed on 25 April 1994, after a period of 37 years. The second cycle began with the election of the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan as the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. He assumed Office on 26 April 1994 and will complete his term on 25 April 1999. (The second column, the eleventh paragraph).

By now, a state whose Ruler have been elected as Yang di-Pertuan Agong will be omitted from the second list as was done during the first round, (section 2, Third Schedule) but the name of the State will be transferred to the end of the list (the second column, the twelfth paragraph) (subsection (4) of section 4, Third Schedule of the Constitution).

It is to be noted that since 1984, there was no change in the Seniority List. So, the first column, the eighth to eleventh paragraphs remain the same.

The framers of the Constitution wanted all Rulers to have the chance of becoming Yang di-Pertuan Agong during the first round. That is why the name of the state whose Ruler is elected as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is omitted in the List of Election for the next Yang di-Pertuan Agong, such that no Ruler can become Yang di-Pertuan Agong twice in the first round. But the Constitution does not prohibit a Ruler from becoming Yang di-Pertuan Agong twice or thrice in the second and subsequent rounds. If the Conference feels that a Ruler is suitable to hold the post twice in one round, it is not unconstitutional; his name is not omitted, but transferred to the bottom of the same list.

### **THE OFFICE OF TIMBALAN YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**

The office of the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong is not insignificant, but because it has always been eclipsed by the office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the institution and the holder of that office in that capacity, are not known to the general public. The *Timbalan* or the Deputy is always known as the Ruler of his State more than as the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong. It becomes significant only when the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong exercises the function of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, either in the absence of the latter, or when the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is unable to exercise his functions either due to illness or incapacity.

Furthermore, the Constitution does not accord him any higher position compared to his brother Rulers. He does not, by virtue of holding the office of Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, takes precedence over other Rulers. The present Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong who is the Sultan of Selangor, takes precedence only after the Raja of Perlis and the Sultan of Kedah, in accordance with seniority.

The office of the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong is provided for in Article 33 of the Federal Constitution.

Article 33 of the Federal Constitution provides that:

- (1) *There shall be a Deputy Supreme Head of the Federation (to be called the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong) who shall exercise the functions and have the privileges of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong during any vacancy in the office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and during any period during which the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is unable to exercise the functions of his office owing to illness, absence from the Federation or for any other cause, but the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall not exercise those functions during any inability or absence of the Yang di-Pertuan*

Agong which is expected to be less than fifteen days, unless the *Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong* is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient to exercise such functions.

(2) The *Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong* shall be elected by the Conference of Rulers for a term of five years, or if elected during the term for which the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* was elected, for the remainder of that term, but may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Conference of Rulers and shall cease to hold office on ceasing to be a Ruler.

(3) If during the term for which the *Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong* was elected a vacancy occurs in the office of the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* his term shall expire on the cessation of the vacancy.

(4) The provisions of Part II of the Third Schedule shall apply to the election of the *Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong*.

(5) Parliament may by law provide for the exercise by a Ruler of the functions of the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* in cases where those functions would under Clause (1) fall to be exercised by the *Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong* but cannot be so exercised owing to a vacancy in the office of the *Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong* or to his illness, absence from the Federation or to any other cause; but such a law shall not be passed without the consent of the Conference of Rulers".

#### WHY THE NEED FOR A *TIMBALAN*?

The creation of the post of a Deputy to the Head of State is not an unusual practice.

There are many reasons for such creation:

- 1) The *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* may need to be absent from the Federation, particularly when he makes State Visits to foreign countries.
- 2) Ill-health may prevent the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* from performing his functions.
- 3) Death may occur while the holder is still in office. This happened to the First, Second and Sixth *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*.
- 4) The *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* may be unable to perform his functions due to any other cause.

In such circumstances, the existence of a Deputy Head of State whose functions are clearly specified in the Constitution helps overcome possible complications.

#### A RULER EXERCISING THE FUNCTIONS OF *YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG*

In case the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* or his *Timbalan* cannot exercise the functions of *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* due to illness, absent from the Federation or any other cause, there ought to be a provision for someone else to exercise such functions.

The *Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Exercise of Functions) Act 1957 (Act 373)* was enacted on 23 December 1957 to enable a Ruler to exercise the functions of the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*. The law came into force on 30 December 1957. Under that law, the Ruler who may do so is the Ruler whose name is first on the list maintained under section 4 of the Third Schedule (the list for the election of the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*).

History has shown that three *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* passed away in office, namely the first, second and sixth, but none of the *Timbalan* died in office.

A case in point:

*The framers of the American Constitution wanted to have the President and Vice-President of the United States of America elected by the people, to show that Americans practice democracy. They never thought that a non-elected President would occupy the Oval Office at the White House. But it happened.*

*When Richard Nixon was President, Spiro Agnew was the Vice-President. Agnew resigned on account of tax evasion. So, Gerald Ford was "appointed" Vice-President. On 9 August 1974 Nixon resigned because of the Watergate Scandal. So Ford, a non-elected Vice-President, became President of the United States of America. Ford appointed Nelson Rockefeller, also a non-elected man, as Vice-President. The framers did not envisage this problem.*



HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'far ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman signing The Oath of Office Document as the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the Taking of Oath of Office Ceremony at Istana Negara on 26 April 1994.

TABLE 6.1  
LIST OF RULERS FOR THE ELECTION OF  
THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

List of Rulers According to the Date of Accession	List of States for the Election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong	List of States whose Rulers Have Been Elected as Yang di-Pertuan Agong
<p>1</p> <p>1957</p> <p>Johor (1895) Pahang (1932) Negeri Sembilan (1933) Selangor (1938) Kedah (1943) Perlis (1945) Kelantan (1945) Terengganu (1945) Perak (1948)</p>	<p>The First List in 1957</p> <p>Johor Pahang Negeri Sembilan Selangor Kedah Perlis Kelantan Terengganu Perak</p>	
<i>The Rulers of Johor and Pahang declined nomination</i>		
<p>2</p> <p>1957</p> <p>Johor Pahang Negeri Sembilan Selangor Kedah Perlis Kelantan Terengganu Perak</p>	<p>Election of the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1957</p> <p><b>Negeri Sembilan</b> Selangor Kedah Perlis Kelantan Terengganu Perak Johor Pahang</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan</p>
<i>The First Yang di-Pertuan Agong passed away in office on 1 April 1960</i>		
<p>3</p> <p>1960</p> <p>Selangor Perlis Kelantan Terengganu Perak Pahang Kedah (15 July 1958) Johor (8 May 1959) N. Sembilan (1 April 1960)</p>	<p>Election of the Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1960</p> <p><b>Selangor</b> Perlis Kedah Kelantan Terengganu Perak Johor Pahang</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor</p>
<i>The Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong passed away in office on 1 September 1960</i>		

List of Rulers According to the Date of Accession	List of States for the Election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong	List of States whose Rulers Have Been Elected as Yang di-Pertuan Agong
<p>4</p> <p>1960</p> <p>Perlis Terengganu Perak Pahang Kedah Johor Negeri Sembilan Kelantan (10 July 1960) Selangor (1 Sept. 1960)</p>	<p>Election of the Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1960</p> <p><b>Perlis</b> Kelantan Terengganu Perak Pahang Kedah Johor</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor Perlis</p>
<p><i>The Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed the Term on 21 September 1965</i></p>		
<p>5</p> <p>1965</p> <p>Perlis Terengganu Pahang Kedah Johor Negeri Sembilan Kelantan Selangor Perak (4 January 1963)</p>	<p>Election of the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1965</p> <p><b>Terengganu</b> Pahang Kedah Johor Kelantan Perak</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor Perlis Terengganu</p>
<p><i>The Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed the Term on 21 September 1970</i></p>		
<p>6</p> <p>1970</p> <p>Perlis Terengganu Kedah Johor Kelantan Selangor Perak N. Sembilan (18 April 1967) Pahang (5 May 1974)</p>	<p>Election of the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1970</p> <p><b>Kedah</b> Johor Kelantan Perak Pahang</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor Perlis Terengganu Kedah</p>
<p><i>The Ruler of Pahang declined nomination</i></p>		
<p><i>The Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed the Term on 21 September 1975</i></p>		



List of Rulers According to the Date of Accession	List of States for the Election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong	List of States whose Rulers Have Been Elected as Yang di-Pertuan Agong
<p>7</p> <p>1975</p> <p>Perlis Terengganu Kedah Johor Kelantan Selangor Perak Negeri Sembilan Pahang</p>	<p>Election of the Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1975</p> <p><b>Kelantan</b> Perak Pahang Johor</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor Perlis Terengganu Kedah Kelantan</p>
	<p><i>The Ruler of Johor declined nomination</i></p>	
	<p><i>The Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong passed away in office on 29 Mac 1979</i></p>	
<p>8</p> <p>1979</p> <p>Perlis Kedah Selangor Negeri Sembilan Pahang Kelantan (29 March 1979) Terengganu (20 Sept. 1979) Johor (11 May 1981) Perak (3 February 1984)</p>	<p>Election of the Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1979</p> <p><b>Pahang</b> Johor Perak</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor Perlis Terengganu Kedah Kelantan Pahang</p>
	<p><i>The Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed the Term on 26 April 1984</i></p>	
<p>9</p> <p>1984</p> <p>Perlis Kedah Selangor Negeri Sembilan Pahang Kelantan Terengganu Johor Perak</p>	<p>Election of the Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1984</p> <p><b>Johor</b> Perak</p>	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor Perlis Terengganu Kedah Kelantan Pahang Johor</p>
	<p><i>The Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed the Term on 26 April 1989</i></p>	




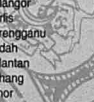

List of Rulers According to the Date of Accession	List of States for the Election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong	List of States whose Rulers Have Been Elected as Yang di-Pertuan Agong
<p>10</p> <p>1989</p> <p>Perlis Kedah Selangor Negeri Sembilan Pahang Kelantan Terengganu Johor Perak</p>	<p>Election of the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1989</p> <p><b>Perak</b></p> 	<p>Negeri Sembilan Selangor Perlis Terengganu Kedah Kelantan Pahang Johor Perak</p>
	<p><i>The Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong completed the Term on 26 April 1994</i></p>	
	<p>When the Sultan of Perak completed his Term of Office as the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 26 April 1994, a full cycle was completed, whereby all the states had their turn to be the King</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>1994</p> <p>Perlis Kedah Selangor Negeri Sembilan Pahang Kelantan Terengganu Johor Perak</p>	<p>Election of the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1994</p> <p><b>Negeri Sembilan</b></p> 	<p>Negeri Sembilan</p>
<p>12</p> <p>1999</p> 	<p>Election of the Eleventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1999</p> <p>Selangor Perlis Terengganu Kedah Kelantan Pahang Johor Perak Negeri Sembilan</p>	

TABLE 6.2

LAWS OF MALAYSIA  
Act 373

YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG  
(EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS) ACT 1957

(Revised, 1988)

An Act to provide for the exercise by a Ruler of the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong whenever those functions fall to be performed by the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong but cannot be so exercised.

[30 December 1957]

WHEREAS by Clause (5) of Article 33 of the Federal Constitution Parliament may by law provide for the exercise by a Ruler of the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in cases where those functions would under Clause (1) of that Article fall to be exercised by the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong but cannot be so exercised owing to a vacancy in the office of the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong or to his illness, absence from Malaysia or to any other cause:

AND WHEREAS by Clause (5) of that Article such a law shall not be passed without the consent of the Conference of Rulers:

AND WHEREAS the Conference of Rulers has consented to the passing of the following law:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ENACTED by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong with the advice and consent of the Parliament as follows:

**Short Title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Exercise of Functions) Act 1957.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—  
"sovereign functions" means the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

**Exercise by a Ruler of the sovereign functions**

3. Whenever owing to a vacancy in the office of Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong or to the illness or absence from Malaysia for a period expected to exceed fifteen days of the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, or to any other cause, the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong cannot exercise the sovereign functions in cases where under Clause (1) of Article 33 of the Federal Constitution those functions would fall to be exercised by him, then such functions shall fall to be exercised by the Ruler whose State is first on the list maintained under section 4 of the Third Schedule to the Federal Constitution if he is able and willing to exercise such functions or, if such Ruler is not so able and willing, then by the first of the Rulers next after him (according to the order in which their States appear on such list) who is so able and willing.

**Oath of office**

4. As soon as the Ruler entitled under section 3 has signified to the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal his willingness to exercise the sovereign functions he shall, after taking and subscribing in the presence of the Chief Justice of the Federal Court (or in his absence the next senior judge of the Federal Court available) the oath of office set out in the Schedule, be entitled to and shall, subject to section 7, exercise such functions until the appointment under section 5 by the Conference of Rulers of a Ruler to exercise such functions.

**Powers of the Conference of Rulers**

5. At the next meeting of the Conference of Rulers following the taking of the oath by the Ruler under section 4 the Conference of the Rulers shall, unless at that date the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong is exercising such functions (and without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under this Act) by resolution appoint a Ruler (being a Ruler qualified to be elected Yang di-Pertuan Agong) to exercise the sovereign functions; and such Ruler shall upon taking the oath of office prescribed by section 4 be entitled to exercise and shall, subject to section 7, exercise such functions.

**Parliament to be notified of exercise of sovereign functions**

6. When a Ruler has taken the oath of office prescribed by section 4 the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal shall thereupon notify the fact that such Ruler is exercising the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in writing to both Houses of Parliament.

**Cesser of exercise of sovereign functions**

7. A Ruler who is exercising the sovereign functions under this Act shall cease to exercise such functions as soon as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong resumes or assumes such functions.

**Illness, etc., of Ruler exercising sovereign functions**

8. When a Ruler who is exercising the sovereign functions under this Act cannot owing to illness or absence from Malaysia for a period not expected to exceed fifteen days or any other cause exercise such functions the sovereign functions shall fall to be exercised by the Ruler who would under section 3 have been entitled to exercise such functions if at the date on which the Ruler first referred to ceased to exercise such functions any of the events described in section 3 had first occurred, and this Act shall apply as if references therein to the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong included references to the Ruler first referred to in this section.

**Saving**

9. Subject to Article 34 of the Federal Constitution, nothing in this Act contained shall effect the exercise by a Ruler of his functions as Ruler of his State.

TABLE 6.3

**OATH OF OFFICE OF A RULER EXERCISING  
THE FUNCTIONS OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**

We ..... ibni ..... being nominated to exercise the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia under the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Exercise of Functions) Act 1957, do hereby swear:

Wallahi;

Wabillahi;

Watallahi;

and by virtue of that oath do solemnly and sincerely declare that we shall faithfully exercise the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as laid down and may from time to time be laid down by the laws and the Constitution of Malaysia.

(Translated version)

TABLE 6.4  
CALENDAR OF SIGNIFICANT ROYAL EVENTS

DATES	EVENTS
3 August 1957	The Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong of the Federation of Malaya
31 August 1957	The First Yang di-Pertuan Agong assumes office
14 July 1958	The Sultan of Kedah, Sultan Badlishah, passed away
15 July 1958	Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah was installed as the 27th Sultan of Kedah
7 May 1959	The Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar, passed away
8 May 1959	Sultan Ismail ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim was installed as the Sultan of Johor
1 April 1960	The First Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Rahman, passed away
1 April 1960	Tuanku Munawir was elected as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan
14 April 1960	The Sultan of Selangor, Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Alaliddin Sulaiman Shah was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong of the Federation of Malaya
10 July 1960	The Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Ibrahim, passed away
11 July 1960	Sultan Yahya Petra was installed as the Sultan of Kelantan
1 September 1960	The Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah, passed away
3 September 1960	Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin was installed as the Sultan of Selangor
21 September 1960	The Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail was elected by the Conference of the Rulers to be the Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong of the Federation of Malaya
4 January 1963	The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah, passed away
5 January 1963	Sultan Idris Shah was installed as the Sultan of Perak
21 September 1965	The Sultan of Terengganu, Tuanku Al Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia
18 April 1967	The Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Munawir ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, passed away

DATES	EVENTS
18 April 1967	Tuanku Ja'afar was elected as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan
21 September 1970	The Sultan of Kedah, Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia
5 May 1974	Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Abu Bakar, passed away
7 May 1974	Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar was installed as the Sultan of Pahang
21 September 1975	The Al-Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia
27 March 1979	The Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Yahya Petra, passed away
29 March 1979	Tuanku Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra was installed as the Al-Sultan of Kelantan
26 April 1979	The Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia
19 September 1979	The Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, passed away
20 September 1979	Sultan Mahmud ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail was installed as the Sultan of Terengganu
10 May 1981	The Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ismail, passed away
11 May 1981	Sultan Iskandar ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail was installed as the Sultan of Johor
1 February 1984	The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Idris Izzuddin Shah, passed away
3 February 1984	Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah was installed as the Sultan of Perak
26 April 1984	The Sultan of Johor, Sultan Iskandar ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia
26 April 1989	The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yusuf Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullah-Jah was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia
26 April 1994	The Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman was elected by the Conference of Rulers to be the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia

*KM Yang di-Pertuan  
Agong  
&  
Raja Permaisuri  
Agong*

31 August 1957 – 25 April 1999



HM ALMARHUM TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN IBNI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU MUHAMMAD  
D.M.N., S.M.N.  
THE YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

*THE FIRST YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG  
(31 AUGUST 1957 - 1 APRIL 1960)*

HM ALMARHUM TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN IBNI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU MUHAMMAD

D.M.N., S.M.N.

THE YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

THE FIRST YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

31 AUGUST 1957 - 1 APRIL 1960

*H*M Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad, the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who reigned from 31 August 1957 to 1 April 1960 was born at Seri Menanti on 24 August 1895. HM received his early education at the Kuala Jempol Malay Primary School until 1907. For the next seven years later, he pursued his secondary education at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar.

Upon completion of his secondary education at the College in 1914, HM was appointed the Malay Officer in the Secretariat of the then Federated Malay States.

In 1915, the young prince set off for an illustrious career as an Assistant Collector of Land Revenue in Seremban. HM proved to be a diligent staff and one who was highly committed to his job. He urged the department to open up branches in several other districts in Negeri Sembilan.

HM was then appointed as an Assistant Malay Officer in Klang before being transferred again to another district. He was posted as an Assistant Collector of Land Revenue in Ulu Selangor. Sheer hardwork and perseverance paid off when he was subsequently promoted to be the Deputy District Officer.

The turning point in his career came about in 1925 when he was briefly attached to the Supreme Court in Kuala Lumpur. Then, he accompanied his father, who was then the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan on a visit to the United Kingdom to visit the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and to meet HM King George V. On the way to the United Kingdom, he made up his mind to take up law and his father HRH Tuanku Muhammad readily agreed to his request. Thus, he remained in the United Kingdom until he completed his law degree and was called to the Bar three years later. For the first few years, he worked his way up to become a Magistrate. Later, he was appointed a District Officer.

In 1933, his father, HRH Tuanku Muhammad passed away. He was duly installed as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan. HM was a practising barrister-at-law and thus he became, at that time, the only Malay Ruler who was a qualified barrister and solicitor.

In 1957, HM was elected by the Conference of Rulers as Malaya's First Yang di-Pertuan Agong and was installed on the 13 September 1957. HM had served as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan for a period of 24 years before becoming the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaya.

HM has three sons and five daughters. His first consort, HRH Tunku Maharum gave him a son, HRH Tuanku Munawir, the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan. Che Engku Maimunah was the mother of two sons and two daughters. The eldest is HH Tunku Aidah. HRH Tuanku Ja'afar is the second child.

HM also had a sustained interest in sports and games. Among them were cricket, football and tennis. However, the sport he loved very much was boxing. In fact when he was a young man, he would fetch out boxing gloves and spar with his sons.





HM TUANKU KURSHIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TUNKU BESAR BURHANUDDIN  
TUNKU AMPUAN OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

*THE FIRST RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*  
(31 AUGUST 1957 - 1 APRIL 1960)

HM TUANKU KURSHIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TUNKU BESAR BURHANUDDIN  
TUNKU AMPUAN OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

*THE FIRST RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*

31 AUGUST 1957 - 1 APRIL 1960

*H*M Tuanku Kurshiah was born on 16 May 1911 at Seri Menanti, Negeri Sembilan. She received her early education at the Seri Menanti Malay School, and took private tuition in the English language.

HM married HM Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar, Negeri Sembilan and they were blessed with two children, HRH Tunku Bahiyah, the Sultanah of Kedah, and her sister HH Tunku Shahariah. She was installed as HRH Tunku Ampuan of Negeri Sembilan when HRH Tuanku Abdul Rahman was elected as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar on 25 April 1934.

When HRH Tuanku Abdul Rahman was installed as the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong, HRH Tuanku Kurshiah was also installed as the First Raja Permaisuri Agong on 31 August 1957.

In 1954, she was elected as the President of the Negeri Sembilan Girl Guides Movement. She is also the Patron of Negeri Sembilan Women's Institute.

In May 1961, she established the Muslim Women Welfare Council and was the Founder President until today.

On 27 October 1974, she was decorated with the Tun Fatimah Gold Medal by the National Council of Women's Organizations for her contribution to uplift the status of women and children in welfare and education.

To honour her contribution to the nation, the government had decided to rename Malay Girls College, a premier residential school, after her name, thus becoming Tunku Kurshiah College. The University of Malaya had also renamed the Third Residential College as Tunku Kurshiah Residential College.



**HM ALMARHUM TUANKU HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ALAIDDIN SULAIMAN SHAH**  
D.M.N., D.K. (Brunei)  
**SULTAN OF SELANGOR**

**THE SECOND YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**  
(14 APRIL 1960 - 1 SEPTEMBER 1960)

HM ALMARHUM TUANKU HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ALAIDDIN SULAIMAN SHAH

D.M.N., D.K. (BRUNED)  
SULTAN OF SELANGOR

*THE SECOND YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG*

14 APRIL 1960 - 1 SEPTEMBER 1960

*H*M was the Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaya who reigned from 14 April 1960 to 1 September 1960. Born in Selangor on 13 May 1898 HM was the third son of HRH Sultan Sulaiman. After completing his primary education in the Bandar Malay School in Kuala Langat, he went to the Malay College in Kuala Kangsar, to continue his secondary education.

In 1920, he was installed as Tengku Panglima Raja. Following that installation, HM became aide-de-camp to his father, a post he held for 14 years.

In 1920, HM married HM Raja Jema'ah binti Almarhum Raja Ahmad.

HM also took a keen interest in religious matters. He was the President of the Alaidin Mosque in 1925.

HM was subsequently elevated as Tunku Laksamana in 1931, and became a member of the special committee set up to reconstitute a new State Council.

HM was appointed as the Raja Muda on the 20 July 1936, and served as Regent while his father was away on an official visit to the United Kingdom. When HRH Sultan Sulaiman passed away in 1937, HM Tuanku Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Alaidin Sulaiman Shah was appointed as the new Ruler of Selangor. HM formally ascended the throne on 26 January 1939, together with his consort, HRH Raja Jema'ah binti Almarhum Raja Ahmad, as the Tengku Ampuan.

During the Japanese occupation of Malaya, HM was taken as a prisoner-of-war. He remained so until after the re-occupation by the British in 1945. In 1952, he went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. HM also presented his private residence, the Istana Jamaiah in Klang, as gift for use as Malaya's first Muslim College.

He was elected as the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, upon Federation of Malaya achieving its independence in 1957. HM assumed duties as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong when HM Tuanku Abdul Rahman passed away. His eldest son, HRH Tuanku Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah is the present Sultan of Selangor and the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.



HM ALMARHUMAH TENGKU AMPUAN JEMA'AH BINTI  
ALMARHUM RAJA AHMAD  
TENGKU AMPUAN BESAR OF SELANGOR

*THE SECOND RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG  
(14 APRIL 1960 - 1 SEPTEMBER 1960)*

HM ALMARHUMAH TENGGU AMPUAN JEMA'AH BINTI  
ALMARHUM RAJA AHMAD  
TENGGU AMPUAN BESAR OF SELANGOR

*THE SECOND RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*

14 APRIL 1960 - 1 SEPTEMBER 1960

*H*M Tengku Ampuan Jema'ah binti Raja Ahmad, the Second Raja Permaisuri Agong was born in Bandar Termasha, Kuala Langat, Selangor in 1900 and received her early education in a Malay School in the palace grounds of Bandar Termasha.

In 1920, HM married HM Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah who was then the royal escort to HRH Sultan Aladdin Sulaiman Shah. HM in turn became the royal escort to HRH Tengku Ampuan Fatimah.

In 1962, HM Tengku Ampuan Jema'ah was blessed with a son, Y.A.M. Tengku Abdul Aziz Shah, who is the present Sultan of Selangor.

HM Tengku Jema'ah had tried her hands at handicraft and was known to have excelled in embroidery, couching, knitting and patchwork. When HM moved to Klang, she gathered the village ladies and started a training program for them in handicraft. The crafts produced were sent to the Raffles Hotel in Singapore under the label "Selangor Malay Handicraft" sponsored by the Singapore Governor's wife at that time. A Malay handicraft shop was opened in Klang and later another branch was started at the Robinson Store in Kuala Lumpur with the assistance of the Store Manager.

The "Selangor Stall" at the M.A.H.A. exhibition in Kuala Lumpur attracted many European tourist and some of the silverware awards won by the stall can be viewed at the Istana Alam Shah Museum. Recognition for these efforts is due to HM Tengku Ampuan Jema'ah.

In 1952, HM went to Mecca to perform her pilgrimage and the following year she accompanied HM Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah to witness the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.



**HM TUANKU SYED PUTRA ALHAJ IBNI  
ALMARHUM SYED HASSAN JAMALULLAIL**

D.K., S.P.M.P., D.K.M., D.M.N., S.M.N., D.K. (Brunei), D.K. (Selangor), S.P.D.K. (Sabah),  
D.K. (Kelantan), D.P. (Sarawak), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan),  
D.P.S.S. (Sarawak), D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K.M.B. (Brunei)  
**RAJA OF PERLIS**

**THE THIRD YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**  
(21 SEPTEMBER 1960 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1965)

**HM TUANKU SYED PUTRA ALHAJ IBNI  
ALMARHUM SYED HASSAN JAMALULLAIL**

D.K., S.P.M.P., D.K.M., D.M.N., S.M.N., D.K. (Brunei), D.K. (Selangor), S.P.D.K. (Sabah), D.K. (Kelantan),  
D.P. (Sarawak), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.P.S.S. (Sarawak),  
D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K.M.B. (Brunei)

**RAJA OF PERLIS**

***THE THIRD YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG***

*21 SEPTEMBER 1960 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1965*

**B**orn in Arau on 25 November 1920, HM the Raja of Perlis received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Arau, and continued his education at the Penang Free School. At the age of 18, HM started his career as a member of the Civil Service in 1938.

In 1940, he was appointed as a Magistrate in Kangar, and then transferred to Kuala Lumpur in 1941 after the outbreak of World War II.

HM Tuanku Syed Putra married HM Tengku Budriah binti Almarhum Tengku Ismail in 1941 and they are blessed with 10 children, five princes and five princesses.

HM Tuanku Syed Putra ascended the Perlis throne on 4 December 1945 but due to the outbreak of World War II, he was not installed until 12 March 1949. HM Tuanku is the longest reigning monarch in the world, and on 4 December 1995 celebrated his Golden Anniversary after having been on the Perlis throne for half-a-century.

At the age of 40, HM was elected as the Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong, and served the country as the King from 21 September 1960 until 20 September 1965.

HM also served as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Malaysian Rangers. In 1971, HM was appointed as the Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang.





HM TENGGU BUDRIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TENGGU ISMAIL  
D.K., S.S.F.J., D.M.N., S.M.N., S.P.M.K.  
RAJA PEREMPUAN OF PERLIS

THE THIRD RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG  
(21 SEPTEMBER 1960 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1965)

**HM TENGKU BUDRIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TENGKU ISMAIL**

D.K., S.S.P.J., D.M.N., S.M.N., S.P.M.K.

**RAJA PEREMPUAN OF PERLIS**

***THE THIRD RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG***

*21 SEPTEMBER 1960 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1965*

*H*M Tengku Budriah was born in Kuala Krai, Kelantan on 28 March 1924. She received her early education at Sekolah Melayu Kuala Krai, and later at the Kuala Krai English School. She then continued her education at the Anglo-Chinese Girls' School, Ipoh.

HM Tengku Budriah married HM Tuanku Syed Putra in 1941 when she was 17 years old. They are blessed with 10 children, five princes and five princesses.

On 12 March 1949, when HM Tuanku Syed Putra was installed as the Raja of Perlis, she was also installed as Raja Perempuan of Perlis.

HM actively participated in charitable organizations for the development and welfare of the women. She was appointed as Patron to many organizations and associations, and she is still the Chairman of Taman Asuhan Darulfarah Tengku Hajah Budriah, Perlis, and as Deputy President of the Malaysian Welfare Council for Muslim Women.

When HM Tuanku Syed Putra was elected as the Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong, she was also installed as Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong, and they moved to Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.

During her tenure as the Queen, she was awarded various honours and decorated with various medals and rolls of honour. Among them are D.K., S.S.P.J., D.M.N., S.M.N., S.P.M.K., and also awards from Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, Pakistan, and United Arab Emirates.



HM ALMARHUM TUANKU ISMAIL NASIRUDDIN SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ZAINAL ABIDIN  
D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., S.P.M.T., D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perak) D.K. (Pahang)  
SULTAN OF TERENGGANU

THE FOURTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG  
(21 SEPTEMBER 1965 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1970)

**HM ALMARHUM TUANKU ISMAIL NASIRUDDIN SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ZAINAL ABIDIN**

D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., S.P.M.T., D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Pahang)

**SULTAN OF TERENGGANU**

**THE FOURTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**

21 SEPTEMBER 1965 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1970

**H**M Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin, the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who reigned from 21 September 1965 to 20 September 1970, was born at Kuala Terengganu on 24 January 1907. HM who was the Fourteenth Sultan of Terengganu, reigned from 1945 to 1979, a period of 34 years.

He had his early education at a Malay school in Terengganu. He later went to the Malay College Kuala Kangsar, Perak to receive his secondary education. In 1925, when he was only 18 years old, he became a Sub-Inspector of Police and on 4 April 1929, he was appointed a cadet in the Terengganu Civil Service. For the next five years, he worked as an officer at the State Secretariat. On 1 August 1934, he was appointed as an Assistant Land Officer. On 25 October 1934, he was appointed a member of the State Executive Council. He was transferred to the Court of Appeals on 4 April 1939, as the Deputy Public Prosecutor. Then, he was also appointed as the Secretary of the Council of Islamic Affairs.

He became the Registrar of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals and the Land Court on 1 January 1940 and later was appointed as a First Class Magistrate for Terengganu. On the 15 November 1941, he was appointed Assistant State Secretary.

On 3 April 1944, HM Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin married HM Tuanku Intan Zaharah binti Almarhum Tengku Seri Setia Raja in Terengganu and they had nine children. The eldest son, HH Tuanku Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah, is the present Sultan of Terengganu.

On 6 June 1945, at the age of 38, HM Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah was installed as the Sultan of Terengganu at Istana Maziah in Kuala Terengganu.

On 21 September 1965, HM Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah was elected as Malaysia's Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Nine years later, on 20 September 1979, Tuanku Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah passed away.



HM TUANKU INTAN ZAHARAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TENGKU SERI SETIA RAJA  
D.K., D.M.N., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T.  
TENGKU AMPUAN BESAR OF TERENGGANU

*THE FOURTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG  
(21 SEPTEMBER 1965 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1970)*

HM TUANKU INTAN ZAHARAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TENGGU SERI SETIA RAJA  
D.K., D.M.N., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T.  
TENGGU AMPUAN BESAR OF TERENGGANU

*THE FOURTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*

21 SEPTEMBER 1965 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1970

*H*M Tuanku Intan Zaharah binti Almarhum Tengku Seri Setia Raja, the Raja Permaisuri Agong was born on 13 April 1928 in Singapore. HM's mother is HH Raja Zainab binti Raja Alang. HM was educated at the Telok Kurau Malay School and the Convent Katong, Singapore.

She was married to HM on 3 April 1944 at Kuala Terengganu, and was made the Tengku Ampuan Besar Terengganu on 6 June 1949.

On 21 September 1965, she became the Raja Permaisuri Agong when HM was sworn in as the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

HM was conferred the "Grand Order of Mugungwha" by the President of the Republic of Korea on 7 February 1966. She was awarded the Darjah Utama Seri Mahkota Negara on 6 April 1966.

HM is the patron of the Girl Guides Association, Terengganu.

HM's hobbies are badminton and fishing.



HM AL-SULTAN ALMU'TASIMU BILLAHI MUHIBBUDDIN  
TUANKU ALHAJ ABDUL HALIM MU'ADZAM SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN BADLISHAH

D.K., D.K.H., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.U.K., D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Selangor),  
D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Terengganu),  
D.K. (Perak), D.P. (Sarawak), D.U.N.M., S.P.M.K., S.S.D.K., D.H.M.S.  
SULTAN OF KEDAH

THE FIFTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG  
(21 SEPTEMBER 1970 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1975)

**HM AL-SULTAN ALMU'TASIMU BILLAHI MUHIBBUDDIN  
TUANKU ALHAJ ABDUL HALIM MU'ADZAM SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN BADLISHAH**

D.K., D.K.H., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.U.K., D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perlis),  
D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perak), D.P. (Sarawak),  
D.U.N.M., S.P.M.K., S.S.D.K., D.H.M.S.

**SULTAN OF KEDAH**

**THE FIFTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**

21 SEPTEMBER 1970 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1975

*H*M Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim was born in Alor Setar on 28 November 1927. He was educated in Sekolah Melayu Titi Gajah, and later, at Sultan Abdul Hamid College. He left for the United Kingdom in 1949 to pursue his tertiary education. In the same year, HM was installed as Raja Muda, or Crown Prince. After completing his preparatory course, HM was admitted into Wadham College, Oxford, where he read Social Science and Public Administration. Wadham was the very college where his father, the late Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, had studied.

HM returned in 1955 to serve in the District Office of Alor Setar, and later, in the State Treasury.

HM Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim married HM Tuanku Hajah Bahiyah binti Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman in March 1956.

In 1957, he was appointed the Regent of Kedah. HM ascended the throne a year later following the demise of his father. HM was officially installed as the 27th ruler of Kedah on 20 February 1959. HM was installed the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1970, a role he upheld until the end of his term in 1975.

As Yang di-Pertuan Agong, HM also played the part of Commander-in-Chief of the Malaysian Army. HM was elected as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Malay Regiment in 1975. He was also, prior to his installation as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Colonel-in-Chief of the Malaysian Reconnaissance Corps.

HM has been conferred with several Distinguish and Meritorious Awards both locally and internationally, amongst them are: The First Class Order of Sacred Treasury from Emperor Hirohito of Japan (1970), Bintang Maha Putera Kelas Satu Indonesia (1970), Order Rammata (Thailand) - 1973, Hon. Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (U.K.) - 1974 and Asso. Knight Order St. John (1974).

HM was elected Chancellor of Universiti Utara Malaysia, the country's sixth and amongst the latest university in 1984. He is currently patron to several clubs and societies, amongst them are: The Royal Kedah Club; Oxford and Cambridge Society Malaysia; Kedah Golf Association; Kedah J.P. Association; Malaysian Government Sports and Welfare Council; Alor Setar, Sungai Petani and Kulim Rotary Club; Vintage Classic Car Register Malaysia and Singapore; National Association of Snooker and Billiard Sports; Darul Aman Golf and Country Club; Malaysian Homeopathy Doctors Association.

HM plays golf and likes reading, music and photography. In sports, HM gives tremendous support to all sporting activities particularly football and golf. HM also has an aviary of exotic birds kept at the Istana.





HM TUANKU HAJAH BAHYAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN  
D.K., D.K.H., D.M.N., D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), S.P.M.K.  
SULTANAH OF KEDAH

*THE FIFTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*  
*(21 SEPTEMBER 1970 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1975)*

**HM TUANKU HAJAH BAHYIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN**  
D.K., D.K.H., D.M.N., D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), S.P.M.K.  
**SULTANAH OF KEDAH**

**THE FIFTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG**

*21 SEPTEMBER 1970 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1975*

*H*M Tuanku Hajah Bahiyah born on 24 August 1930 at Seri Menanti, is the eldest princess of HRH the Yang di-Pertuan Besar and HRH Tunku Ampuan Negeri Sembilan, later elected as the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong. HM was educated at the Malay School in Seri Menanti and the Convent School in Seremban. She left for her tertiary education in the United Kingdom where she graduated with a degree in Social Science from the University of Nottingham.

HM married HM Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah in March 1956 and they are blessed with three princesses, two of them twins: HH Dato' Seri Tunku Puteri Intan Shafinaz, HH Dato' Seri Tunku Puan Soraya and HH Tunku Sarina (deceased on 31 August 1991).

HM was installed as the Sultanah on 20 February 1959. On 23 September 1970 HM was installed as the Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia when HM Tuanku Abdul Halim became the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

HM was bestowed with numerous awards both internally and internationally. In 1970, Emperor Hirohito of Japan conferred upon HM The First Class Order of Sacred Treasure. In the same year, Presiden Soeharto of Indonesia paid her honours with the Bintang Maha Putera Kelas Satu.

HM was conferred an Honourary Doctorate in Education by the University of Malaya, of which she was Chancellor from 1972 to 1986. HM is noted for her contribution to society in particular towards the welfare of the less fortunate, children and the elderly. To effectively contribute towards the various charitable and welfare organisations, a welfare foundation known as 'Yayasan Sultanah Bahiyah' was set up of which HM is the prime mover and Patron.

Currently HM is Patron of various organizations such as: Kedah Orchid Association; Kedah Blood Donor Association; Kedah Family Planning Association, Kedah Children Welfare Organization; Kedah Muslim Women Welfare Organization; Kulim Lioness Club; Kedah Netball Association; Universiti Utara Malaysia Women Organization (SUTRANITA); Nottingham Graduates Association; Ex-Servicemen Widows and Wives Association (BAKIBAH); Kedah Handicapped Association; Kedah Thallasaemia Association and Sultanah Bahiyah Secondary School Old Girls Association.

Music, art, reading and golf occupy most of HM's leisure time.



**HM ALMARHUM TUANKU YAHYA PETRA IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN IBRAHIM**

D.K.M., D.K., D.M.N., S.M.N., S.P.M.K., S.J.M.K., S.P.S.K., D.K. (Selangor),  
D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Brunei), D.K. (Pahang),  
D.K. (Perlis), D.P. (Sarawak)

**AL-SULTAN OF KELANTAN**

**THE SIXTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**

(21 SEPTEMBER 1975 - 29 MARCH 1979)

# HM ALMARHUM TUANKU YAHYA PETRA IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN IBRAHIM

D.K.M., D.K., D.M.N., S.M.N., S.P.M.K., S.J.M.K., S.P.S.K., D.K. (Selangor),  
D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Brunei), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Perlis), D.P. (Sarawak)  
AL-SULTAN OF KELANTAN

## THE SIXTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

21 SEPTEMBER 1975 - 29 MARCH 1979

**H**M Tengku Yahya Petra, was installed as Sultan and Yang di-Pertuan Negeri of Kelantan on Sunday, 10 July 1960, taking the title Sultan Yahya Petra, to succeed his father HRH Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Muhammad IV. HM Tengku Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim was born on 10 December 1917 at the Istana Balai Besar, Kota Bharu. He was given religious education during his childhood when he was being brought up by his uncle, Sultan Ismail.

HM Tengku Yahya Petra received his early education at the Francis Light School, Penang, at the age of fourteen. After four years at this school, the late HRH Sultan Ismail sent him to study in England in 1934.

HM Tengku Yahya Petra married HM Yang Mulia Tengku Zainab binti Tengku Muhammad Petra at the age of twenty two. The Royal couple were blessed with one son and six daughters. Tengku Yahya Petra's only son is the present Sultan of Kelantan, HRH Sultan Ismail Petra. His four daughters are HH Tengku Mariam, HH Tengku Rozan, HH Tengku Salwani and HH Tengku Rohani.

HM Tengku Yahya Petra was bestowed the title "Tengku Temenggong" and the Royal Family Order (D.K.) by the late Sultan Ismail on 21 July 1939. To familiarise him with matters relating to the administration, Tengku Yahya Petra was appointed to several key posts in the State Government. He was Deputy President of the Kelantan Council of Islamic Religion and Malay Customs, from 1941 to 1947. On 2 April 1944, he was appointed Assistant Chief State Financial Officer, and on 6 February 1945, he was made District Officer of Kota Bharu. In 1945, HM Tengku Yahya Petra was made "Tengku Bendahara" by his father HRH Sultan Ibrahim. Tengku Yahya Petra became President of the Kelantan Council of Islamic Religion and Malay Customs on 1 January 1948 until 31 December 1953.

While still the Tengku Mahkota, HM Tengku Yahya Petra was deeply involved in the affairs of the State and he took great interest in the welfare of the people. During his rule (1948 - 1960) the State was under a state of emergency and HRH braved it all by going to the most remote areas in Kelantan.

On 5 June 1952, HM received the Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) from Queen Elizabeth II of England.

On the day commemorating the first anniversary of independence of Malaya on 31 August 1958, HM Tengku Yahya Petra was made Seri Maharaja, receiving the highest Malayan Order of Seri Mangku Negara (S.M.N.) from the First King of Malaya, HM Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the Ruler of Negeri Sembilan. HM Sultan Yahya Petra also received other Family Orders, among which were the Honorary Royal Order of Brunei (D.K. Brunei) in 1961, the Royal Family Order of Terengganu (D.K. Terengganu) in 1964, the Royal Family Order of Selangor (D.K. Selangor) in 1966 and the Royal Family Order of Kedah (D.K. Kedah) in 1969. On 9 October 1966, Sultan Yahya Petra was made Colonel of the Malaysian Artillery Brigade.

On 22 July 1970, Sultan Yahya Petra was elected Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia by the Conference of Rulers. The oath-taking ceremony was performed on 21 September 1970. Then on 19 June 1975, the Conference of Rulers elected HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia. During his reign as Yang di-Pertuan Agong, his son, HH Tengku Ismail Petra, was the Regent of Kelantan.

HM was also a dedicated nature lover. His gentle demeanour portrayed a special fondness for flowers and animals. Quite naturally, his palace was literally amassed with some of the most iridescent and captivating flora. HM was also known to rear wild animals including spotted deer and kijang, the symbol and mascot of the State of Kelantan.



HM ALMARHUMAH TENGKU ZAINAB BINTI  
TENGKU MOHAMED PETRA  
D.K., S.P.M.K.  
RAJA PEREMPUAN OF KELANTAN

*THE SIXTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*  
(21 SEPTEMBER 1975 - 29 MARCH 1979)

**HM ALMARHUMAH TENGGU ZAINAB BINTI  
TENGGU MOHAMED PETRA  
D.K., S.P.M.K.  
RAJA PEREMPUAN OF KELANTAN**

***THE SIXTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG***

*21 SEPTEMBER 1975 - 29 MARCH 1979*

*H*M Tengku Zainab binti Almarhum Tengku Mohamed Petra, the consort of HM Sultan Yahya Petra, and the mother of the present Sultan of Kelantan, HRH Sultan Ismail Petra, was born on 7 August 1917. HM Tengku Zainab was given an early religious education by her parents in addition to the teaching of the Malay customs and the royal etiquette inherited from the generation to generation. She was also taught by noted religious teachers in the State.

HM Tengku Zainab was married to HM Sultan Yahya Petra on 4 June 1939. She was made Tengku Ampuan Mahkota by HRH Sultan Ibrahim on 9 August 1956 and on the same day she received the First Class Order of the Crown of Kelantan (S.P.M.K.). She was appointed Raja Perempuan of Kelantan on 19 July 1960, known as Raja Perempuan Zainab II on the day HM Sultan Yahya Petra was proclaimed Sultan of Kelantan. She was awarded the Kelantan Royal Family Order (D.K.) on the first Birthday Anniversary of HM Sultan Yahya Petra.

HM Tengku Zainab accompanied HM Sultan Yahya Petra overseas when he visited several countries. Such visits, undoubtedly, gave her greater understanding in discharging her duties as Raja Perempuan and as Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia. HM was very generous and enjoyed doing voluntary work for the public. She used to be the President of many social organisations, such as the Girl Guides Association of Kelantan and the Women Institute.

HM Tengku Zainab took a special interest in household work, including decorating the palace and attending to the food of the Royal Family. She especially enjoyed handicraft work, collecting antiques and gardening. She passed away peacefully on 10 January 1993 at the Istana Negeri at the age of 75.



HM SULTAN HAJI AHMAD SHAH AL-MUSTA'IN BILLAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ABU BAKAR RI'AYATUDDIN AL-MU'ADZAM SHAH  
D.K.F., D.K., D.K.M., S.S.A.P., S.I.M.P., D.M.N., D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Kelantan),  
D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Kedah), D.K.M.B., D.K. (Brunei), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan),  
D.K. (Selangor), Qiladah Badr Al-Kubra (Saudi Arabia), Qiladah Al-Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabir  
(Kuwait), Grand Order of The Mugunghwa (South Korea), Hon. D.LITT (Malaya),  
LLD. HC (Northrop USA)  
SULTAN OF PAHANG

*THE SEVENTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG*  
*(26 APRIL 1979 - 25 APRIL 1984)*

**HM SULTAN HAJI AHMAD SHAH AL-MUSTA'IN BILLAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ABU BAKAR RI'AYATUDDIN AL-MU'ADZAM SHAH**

D.K.P., D.K., D.K.M., S.S.A.P., S.I.M.P., D.M.N., D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Terengganu),  
D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Kedah), D.K.M.B., D.K. (Brunei), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Selangor), Qiladah Badr Al-Kubra  
(Saudi Arabia), Qiladah Al-Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabir (Kuwait), Grand Order of The Mugunghwa (South Korea),  
Hon. D.LITT (Malaya), LLD. HC (Northrop USA)

**SULTAN OF PAHANG**

**THE SEVENTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG**

26 APRIL 1979 - 25 APRIL 1984

**A** M Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah was born at Istana Mangga Tunggal, Pekan, Pahang on 24 October 1930. He received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Pekan and continued his studies at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar, but his studies was disrupted by World War II. He also studied Japanese during the Japanese occupation.

In 1944, at an early age of 14, HM was appointed the Regent of Pahang. After the War, he continued his education at the Clifford School in Kuala Lipis and lived with other commoners at the hostel. He continued his education at the Malay College again after the War.

In 1948, HM continued his studies in Public Administration at Worcester College, Oxford. He also followed a course in Local Government at the University College, Exeter, Devon and received the practical training at the Urban District Council in Sidmouth for three years.

At a young age of 35, he was the Commanding Officer of the 12th Infantry Battalion of the Territorial Army, which had its headquarters at Camp Batu 5, in Mentakab. His military, civil and welfare services has spread the word in the State among the *rakyat* that the Tengku Mahkota was a people-oriented leader and prince who cared for the people and their security. But the Tengku Mahkota has his favourite "extra-mural" activities especially in sports and games, which he excels in. He was already known in the State and elsewhere as an exceptional polo player.

In 1982, HM was bestowed with International Olympic Soccer Award, the only Malaysian to have been presented with the prestigious award. Soccer, a world sport, was given a new lease of life when HM took over as President of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM). Under his leadership, Malaysia regained the Merdeka Cup after 19 years by beating South Korea 3-1 on extra time on 14 February 1993. As the "No. 1 Sports Fan", HM is the President of the Football Association of Malaysia since 1984, and also the President of the Asian Football Federation. His other hobbies are polo, hockey, badminton and golf. HM attended the Olympic games at Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta.

HM was appointed as the Fifth Ruler of Pahang on 7 May 1974 upon the demise of his father, HRH Sultan Abu Bakar, and was installed on 6 May 1975. He was elected as the Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong and served from 26 April 1979 till 25 April 1984.

HM married HM Tuanku Hajah Afzan binti Tengku Muhammad on 22 April 1954 and they were blessed with seven children, two princes and five princesses. On the demise of HRH Tuanku Ampuan Pahang, Tunku Hajah Afzan on 29 June 1988, HM married HRH Sultanah Kalsom on 10 February 1991, and are blessed with a prince.

He was appointed to the highest office of an institution of higher learning as the Constitutional Head of the International Islamic University of Malaysia since February 1983.





HM ALMARHUMAH TENGKU HAJAH AFZAN BINTI  
TENGKU MUHAMMAD  
D.M.N., D.K., S.S.A.P., S.L.M.P.  
TENGKU AMPUAN OF PAHANG

*THE SEVENTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*  
(26 APRIL 1979 - 25 APRIL 1984)

**HM ALMARHUMAH TENGKU HAJAH AFZAN BINTI  
TENGKU MUHAMMAD**  
D.M.N., D.K., S.S.A.P., S.I.M.P.  
**TENGKU AMPUAN OF PAHANG**

**THE SEVENTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG**

26 APRIL 1979 - 25 APRIL 1984

*H*M Tengku Hajah Afzan binti Tengku Muhammad was born on 4 December 1933 at Kuala Terengganu. She is the fourth child of the late HRH Tengku Muhammad ibni Almarhum Sultan Ahmad Al-Mu'adza Shah and HRH Tengku Hajah Mandak binti Tengku Mustaffa, and a granddaughter of the late HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah I of Terengganu.

She received her early education at the Pekan Malay Girls' School and was also given special tuition in the English language.

On 22 April 1954, at the age of 21, she married HM Tengku Ahmad Shah ibni Sultan Abu Bakar of Pahang, she became the Tengku Ampuan and were blessed with seven children - two princes and five princesses. They are HH Tengku Mariam, HH Tengku Muhaini, HH Tengku Aishah, HH Tengku Abdullah (the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang), HH Tengku Abdul Rahman, HH Tengku Hajah Nong Fatimah and HH Tengku Hajah Shahariah.



HM SULTAN ISKANDAR IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ISMAIL  
D.K.  
SULTAN OF JOHOR

*THE EIGHTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG*  
(26 APRIL 1984 - 25 APRIL 1989)

HM SULTAN ISKANDAR IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ISMAIL

D.K.

SULTAN OF JOHOR

*THE EIGHTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG*

26 APRIL 1984 - 25 APRIL 1989

*H*M Sultan Iskandar was born at Istana Semayam, Johor Bahru on 8 April 1932. HM was proclaimed as the Fourth Sultan of Johor on 11 May 1981. HM was appointed as Colonel Commandant Special Forces Regiment of the Malaysian Army and as Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (12 December 1981 - 20 September 1989).

HM was elected as the Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong by the 129th Conference of Rulers and ruled from 26 April 1984 until 25 April 1989.

HM was installed as the Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 15 November 1984. HM is married to HM Sultanah Zanariah binti Tunku Ahmad. HM is blessed with 10 children.



HM SULTANAH ZANARIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TUNKU AHMAD

D.K.  
SULTANAH OF JOHOR

*THE EIGHTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*  
(26 APRIL 1984 - 25 APRIL 1989)

HM SULTANAH ZANARIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TUNKU AHMAD

D.K.

SULTANAH OF JOHOR

*THE EIGHTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*

*26 APRIL 1984 - 25 APRIL 1989*

*H*M Sultanah Zanariah binti Almarhum Tunku Ahmad was born on 5 July 1940 at Dusun Green, Pasir Mas, Kelantan.

When HM Sultan Iskandar was proclaimed the Sultan of Johor, HM Sultanah Zanariah was proclaimed as Sultanah of Johor on 11 May 1981.

When the Sultan of Johor was elected as the Eighth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, she was installed as Raja Permaisuri Agong from 26 April 1984 until 25 April 1989.

HM is currently the Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia since 21 September 1989.



HM SULTAN AZLAN MUHIBBUDDIN SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN YUSSUF IZZUDDIN SHAH GHAFARULLAHU-LAH  
D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor),  
D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Kedah), D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Pahang),  
S.S.M., P.M.N., P.S.M., S.F.C.M., S.F.T.S., S.P.M.P., S.I.M.F.  
PADUKA SERI SULTAN OF PERAK

THE NINTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

(26 APRIL 1989 - 25 APRIL 1994)

## HM SULTAN AZLAN MUHIBBUDDIN SHAH IBNI

### ALMARHUM SULTAN YUSSUF IZZUDDIN SHAH GHAFARULLAHU-LAH

D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor),  
D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Kedah), D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Pahang), S.S.M., P.M.N., P.S.M., S.P.C.M.,  
S.P.T.S., S.P.M.P., S.I.M.P.

### PADUKA SERI SULTAN OF PERAK

### THE NINTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

26 APRIL 1989 - 25 APRIL 1994

**H**M Sultan Azlan Shah was born on 19 April 1928 in Batu Gajah. He is married to HM Tuanku Bainun the Raja Permaisuri Perak, in 1955. They are blessed with two princes and three princesses.

HM early education was at Government English School, Batu Gajah and thereafter to the prestigious Malay College Kuala Kangsar. He went to read law at the University of Nottingham where he was conferred the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1953. The following year HM was admitted to the English Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn on 23 November 1954.

On his return, HM joined the Judicial and Legal Service of the Federation of Malaya and served as the Assistant State Secretary of Perak, as First Class Magistrate and as President of the Sessions Court respectively. Subsequently HM was appointed to the following offices; as Federal Counsel and Deputy Public Prosecutor, Legal Adviser of the State of Pahang and later of Johor, as Registrar of the High Court of Malaya and as Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia.

In 1965, at the age of only thirty seven years, HM was elevated to the Bench of the High Court of Malaya being the youngest judge to be appointed in the Commonwealth. In 1973, HM was made a Federal Court Judge and six years later in 1979, HM was appointed the Chief Justice of the High Court of Malaya, an office which he held until his appointment as the Lord President (now Chief Justice) of the Federal Court of Malaysia on 12 November 1982.

On 1 July 1983 HM was appointed as the Raja Muda of Perak and ascended the Perak throne as the 34th Sultan of Perak and was installed on 9 December 1985.

The higher institutions of learning have also benefited from HM's contributions. Among the many positions HM held were Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (4 October 1971 to February 1984), Chairman of the Higher Education Advisory Council (1 November 1974 to 31 October 1976), and Chancellor of University of Malaya since 8 February 1986.

HM was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Literature by University of Malaya on 30 June 1979 and an Honorary Doctorate in Law by Universiti Sains Malaysia on 28 June 1980. HM's outstanding achievements are also recognised by foreign universities; the University of Nottingham conferred on HM an Honorary Doctorate of Law on 11 July 1986 followed by Lincoln's Inn, London which awarded HM "Honorary Bencher" in 1988. HM was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by University of Gadjah Mada, Jogjakarta, Indonesia on 28 September 1990; University of Brunei Darussalam on 30 October 1990; and University of Chulalongkorn, Bangkok, Thailand on 19 December 1990. On 2 October 1991 HM was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Royal College of Physician in Ireland and Fellowship of Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and Honorary Fellowship of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

For his excellent service to the nation, HM was conferred, the following federal and foreign awards and decorations: D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Kedah), D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Pahang), S.S.M., P.M.N., P.S.M., S.P.C.M., S.P.T.S., S.P.M.P., S.I.M.P. The most Auspicious of The Rajamitrabhorn Thailand; Grand Order of Mugunghwa (Republic of Korea); Collar of the Japanese Order of the Chrysanthemum and Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the

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HM TUANKU BAINUN BINTI  
MOHD. ALI  
D.K., D.M.N.  
RAJA PERMAISURI OF PERAK

*THE NINTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*  
(26 APRIL 1989 - 25 APRIL 1994)

HM TUANKU BAINUN BINTI  
MOHD. ALI  
D.K., D.M.N.  
RAJA PERMAISURI OF PERAK

*THE NINTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*

26 APRIL 1989 - 25 APRIL 1994

*H*M the Raja Permaisuri of Perak, Tuanku Bainun was born in Pulau Pinang. HM received her secondary education at the St. George's School, Pulau Pinang and later at the Teachers' Training College, Kirkby, Liverpool, United Kingdom.

HM married HM Sultan Azlan Shah in 1955.

HM's teaching career covered a period of 22 years in various schools in Kuala Lumpur, Seremban (Negeri Sembilan), Raub (Pahang), Taiping (Perak) and Kuantan (Pahang).

For her services to society and education HM was honoured and conferred "A Fellow of Liverpool John Moores University".

On 19 February 1984, HM was proclaimed the Raja Permaisuri of Perak Darul Ridzuan and subsequently the Raja Permaisuri Agong on 26 April 1989 for five years.

While at school and also at Kirkby, HM played hockey. Now she plays golf and takes part in Ladies Golf Competitions very actively. She loves flowers and HM was honoured with three orchid hybrids named after her namely: (i) *Christiera (Clitra) Permaisuri Bainun*; (ii) *Dendrobium (Den) Tuanku Bainun* and (iii) *Renantanda (Rntda) Tuanku Bainun*.

Being Patrons to charitable organisations and associations in Perak, namely: the Perak Women Basketball Association, the Perak Women Badminton Association, the Girl Guides Movement, the Perak Women Hockey Association and PERKIM, HM places her fervent interest to their welfare.

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Chrysanthemum (Japan); Civil Order, 1st Class (Oman); Orden Al-Merito De Chile (Republic of Chile); the Bintang ADI PURNA (Republic of Indonesia); and Hon. Knight Grand Cross (Civil Division) of the Order of the Bath (U.K.). HM was also awarded The Pau Harris Fellowship by Rotary International and the Melvin Jones Fellow Award by Lions Clubs International.

HM's enthusiasm for sports, especially hockey, began at school. HM is presently the President of Malaysian Hockey Federation, President of the Asian Hockey and Vice-President of FIH (International Hockey Federation). Other than hockey HM is an avid golfer. HM is the Royal Patron of the following student, graduate, professional and charitable clubs and associations, namely: the Malaysian Law Society in Great Britain and Eire; the British Graduates Association of Malaysia; the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia; the National Cancer Society of Malaysia; W.W.F. Malaysia; the Rotary Clubs; the Lions Clubs; the Royal Ipoh Club and the Royal Perak Golf Club; the Iskandar Polo Club, Ipoh; the Kuala Kangsar Golf Club; the Malaysian Nature Society; and the Perak Veteran Hockey Association.

As a special mention, in 1992, an orchid which was named after HM i.e. *Doritinopsis Sultan Azlan Shah* was awarded the best plant award in its section during the Perak Domestic Tourism Exposition '92.

HM was proclaimed as the Ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and served from 26 April 1989 until 25 April 1994.



HM TUANKU JA'AFAR IBNI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN  
D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Selangor),  
D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perak)  
THE YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

THE TENTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG  
(26 APRIL 1984 - 25 APRIL 1989)

HM TUANKU JA'AFAR IBNI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN

D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor),  
D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perak)

THE YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

THE TENTH YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

26 APRIL 1994 - 25 APRIL 1999

*H* M Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the second son of the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong, was born on 19 July 1922 in the royal town of Klang, Selangor.

His early education started from 1928 to 1933 at the Seri Menanti Malay School, Kuala Pilah. Due to his diligence and intelligence, he won a place to further his studies at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar. It was during his seven years there (1933 to 1940) that he showed his leadership qualities for which he was made the Head Boy from 1939 to 1940.

After completing his studies at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar, HM entered Raffles College in Singapore. But his education was disrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the Japanese occupation of the then Malaya, he served at the Land Office in Seremban. From 1946 to 1947, he was the Assistant District Officer of Rembau.

Backed by a strong desire to further his studies, he finally obtained a scholarship to study abroad. After the end of the Second World War, HM Tuanku Ja'afar left for Nottingham University, United Kingdom to pursue law studies. HM Tuanku Ja'afar earned a reputation as a disciplined and bright student. He managed to obtain the Bachelor of Law degree without much problem. After obtaining his law degree, he then enrolled at the Oxford University (Balliol College) to pursue a degree in Economics. In 1951, he took up a course in Political Science and French at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

On his return to the country in 1952, HM held various positions in the Civil Service, as an Assistant State Secretary, Perak; Assistant District Officer Parit, Perak; and later as District Officer, Tampin.

His diplomatic career began in 1957. He attended a Special Diplomatic Service Course for one year in London. His first appointment was as Charge d'Affaires at Washington D.C. in the United States. He later became the First Secretary at Malaysia's Permanent Representative Office at the United Nations in New York. Later, he was appointed Counsellor at the High Commission of Malaya in London before becoming Deputy High Commissioner.

HM Tuanku Ja'afar was appointed Malaysia's Ambassador to Egypt and later High Commissioner to Nigeria and Ghana.

He was supposed to have left for Japan to take up his appointment as Ambassador when the Negeri Sembilan Government recalled him following the demise of his elder brother, HRH Tuanku Munawir, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan. Before his return, the four *Undangs* and Tunku Besar Tampin had unanimously elected him as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan to succeed the late HRH Tuanku Munawir. HM Tuanku Ja'afar ascended the throne as the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan on 18 April 1967.

HM Tuanku Ja'afar married HM Tuanku Najihah binti Almarhum Tunku Besar Burhanuddin on 8 August 1943 and they are blessed with three princes and three princesses.

Throughout his reign as Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, he takes utmost interest and concern on the problems of his subjects and administration of the State. In overseeing the State's socio-economic transformation his emphasis is on the industrial sector and public housing to raise the living standards of his subjects. Through his initiatives and encouragement, a number of new housing areas were developed. They include Taman Tuanku Ja'afar which is complemented by an industrial area and an international standard golf course. Others include Taman Tunku Ampuan Najihah at Sungai Gadut and a housing project in Mambau.

His aspiration is to create a peaceful and prosperous State so that people from all races can live in peace and happiness. He does not want the people to continue living in the shackles of poverty and as such he desires to increase job opportunities in line with the rapid pace of economic development to enable people from all walks of life to enjoy the benefits.

Through his wisdom, sincerity and dedication, he endears himself to the people and has gained the highest admiration and respect from his brother Rulers and leaders both within the country and abroad. He has been bestowed the following honours: D.K., D.K.M., D.M.N., D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perak). He was also conferred the Commander Grand Cross, with Collar of the Order of the White Rose (Finland) on 25 January 1995; Collar of Civil Merit (Spain) on 4 April 1995; Order of Sikatuna (Philippines) on 21 June 1995; Collar De La Order Almerito De Chile (Chile) on 27 September 1995; National Order of the Cruzeiro Do Sul (Brazil) on 18 December 1995; Knight of the Royal Order of the Seraphim (Sweden) on 12 March 1996 and Grand Cordon (Uruguay) on 3 July 1996.

In 1979, the Conference of Rulers elected HM Tuanku Ja'afar as the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong. He was re-elected in 1989 as Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

HM Tuanku Ja'afar has been the Chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi since 16 April 1976. He has made immense contributions by promoting efforts to upgrade the quality and status of education in the country. On 27 July 1990, he was conferred the Honorary Doctorate of Law by Ohio University. On 22 June 1995, he was conferred with Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of the Philippines. On 21 July 1995, he was conferred the Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Nottingham. He was also conferred the Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Santiago, Chile on 28 September 1995. On 11 September 1996, he was conferred the Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Brunei Darussalam.

HM Tuanku Ja'afar and the entire members of the Negeri Sembilan Royal family are known as the 'Royal Sports Family'. He and members of his family always take a keen interest in cricket, tennis, badminton, squash, hockey, golf and soccer, both in the country and abroad. His son, HH Tunku Imran, was the World Squash President for 7 years.

Given his deep interest in golf, he regularly competes in golf tournaments in the country and abroad. He has helped to improve the standard of golf in Negeri Sembilan by spearheading efforts to upgrade the standard of golf courses and their facilities especially at the International Golf Club in Seremban. He took part in the Malaysian Open Pro-Am every year from the early years of its inception.

HM Tuanku Ja'afar's 29 year reign has brought striking changes in the socio-economic development of Negeri Sembilan. Under his reign, people from all walks of life are now enjoying the fruits of development and progress.



HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as a Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces receiving the royal salute of honour during the Trooping of Colours Ceremony at Stadium Merdeka Kuala Lumpur on 7 June 1997.



HM TUANKU NAJIHAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM TUNKU BESAR BURHANUDDIN  
D.K., D.M.N., D.K. (Kedah), S.P.T.J., S.P.M.K.  
TUNKU AMPUAN OF NEGERI SEMBILAN

THE TENTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG  
(26 APRIL 1994 - 25 APRIL 1999)

**HM TUANKU NAJIHAH BINTI**  
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*THE TENTH RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG*

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*T*M Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah received her formal education at the Tuanku Muhammad School in Kuala Pilah. Later, she attended language courses and special training programmes for diplomatic wives when HM Tuanku Ja'afar was undergoing a special Diplomatic Service course in London.

She was a student at the London School of Oriental Studies and was a committee member of the Associated Country Women of the World.

She is also the patron of various national women's associations, the Negeri Sembilan Girl Guides Association, Lembaga Kebajikan Perempuan Islam and the Women's Institute to name a few.

As a keen sportswoman, HM excels in hockey, basketball and badminton, and she is also known to be equally well in golf, tennis and shooting. She is also the President of the Tunku Ampuan's Badminton Team and the patron of the Malaysian Women's Hockey Team, Malaysian Women's Football Team and Malaysian Women's Golf Team, also a patron of Malaysian Ladies Golf Association (MALGA)

Her selfless contribution to the welfare of the needy, the handicapped and the underprivileged have been well documented. She is well known for her willingness to lend support to any noble cause.

As patron of the Tuanku Ampuan Najihah Children's Home in Temiang, she makes it a point to give special care and attention to the handicapped and the underprivileged residents.

Painting is one of HM's hobbies. Other members of the Royal Family have also taken up painting as the art fosters creativity, patience, tranquility and an appreciation for things that are beautiful.

The Royal couple is blessed with three princes and three princesses. The eldest is HH Tunku Dara Naquiah, HRH Tunku Naquiyuddin, HH Tunku Imran, HH Tunku Puteri Jawahir, HH Tunku Irinah and the youngest is HH Tunku Putera Nadzaruddin.



# THE MAKING OF LAWS

The framers of the Constitution provide various procedures for amending the Constitution and for making laws. Some require the consent of the Conference of Rulers as well as the state or states affected.

## **Consent of Conference of Rulers and States**

Article 2 provides that Parliament may by law alter the boundaries of any State, but such law shall not be passed without the consent of that State (expressed by a law made by the Legislature of that State) and of the Conference of Rulers. This Article requires three steps to be taken before the boundary of a state can be altered:

- 1) An Act of Parliament altering the boundaries.
- 2) An Enactment by the Legislature of the State or States concerned consenting to the alteration.
- 3) Consent of the Conference of Rulers to the alteration.

## **Consent of Conference of Rulers**

Article 159 (5) provides that a law making an amendment to:

- Part III which deals with citizenship;
- Article 38 which deals with the constitution, functions and powers of the Conference;
- Article 70 dealing with the precedence of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, his Consort, Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri;
- Article 71 (1) by which the Federal Government guarantees the right of a Ruler to succeed to the throne and to remain a Ruler;

- Article 152 dealing with the Malay language as national and official language;
- Article 153 dealing with the special position of Malays and natives of Sabah and Sarawak and the legitimate interests of other communities;

cannot be passed without the consent of the Conference of Rulers.

In 1971, the Constitution was amended to also require the consent of the Conference of Rulers for amendments to Clause (4) of Article 10, Clause (4) of Article 63 and Clause (4) of Article 72.

By Clause (4) of Article 10, notwithstanding the freedom of speech guaranteed to citizens, Parliament may in the interest of security or public order enact laws prohibiting the questioning any matter, right, states, position, privilege of sovereignty established or protected by Part III dealing with citizenship; by Article 152 dealing with the national language and the use of other languages; by Article 153 dealing with the special position of Malays and natives of Borneo and the legitimate interests of other communities; by Article 181 dealing with the sovereignty and prerogatives of the Rulers; but Parliament may not enact laws prohibiting anyone from questioning the implementation of those constitutional provisions.

Clause (4) of Article 63 and of Article 72 restricts the freedom of a member of Parliament or a State Legislative Assembly to raise sensitive matters referred to in Clause (4) of Article 10 in Parliament or the State Legislative Assembly.

The consent of the Conference of Rulers is also required before any law directly affecting the privileges, position, honours or dignities of the Rulers can be passed. This is provided for in Clause 4 of Article 38.

As has been seen in the previous Chapter, the consent of the Conference of Rulers is also required to any federal law providing for the exercise by a Ruler of the functions of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong which fall to be exercised by the *Timbalan* but cannot be so exercised owing to a vacancy in the office of the *Timbalan* or to his illness, absence from the Federation or to any other cause.

# A

## PPPOINTMENTS

The Conference of Rulers appoints, nominates or is consulted in some appointments. The following are examples of such appointments:

- 1) By virtue of Clause (3) of Article 137 of the Constitution, the Conference appoints one member to the Armed Forces Council to represent their Royal Highnesses. The present appointee is the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, Y.M. Engku Datuk Ibrahim bin Engku Ngah.
- 2) Clause (1) of Article 122B requires that the Conference be consulted on the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Federal Court, the President of the Court of Appeal, Chief Judge of the High Courts of Malaya and of Sabah and Sarawak and Federal Court Judges, Court of Appeal Judges and High Court Judges. All these appointments are made by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong acting on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The rationale behind consultation in the appointment of judges is that although administration of justice is a Federal matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government (Ninth Schedule, List I, Item 3), judges have to serve the states. The states have no say in the appointment of judges. Furthermore, judges are transferrable from one state to another. As such, it is not only courteous, but also appropriate and necessary, to consult the Rulers. It would be cumbersome for the Chief Justice (formerly Lord President) of the Federal Court to go round the country to seek audience with each Ruler to nominate someone to the bench. The Conference of Rulers is a more appropriate forum to consult on the appointment.

- 3) The Conference must be consulted on the appointment of the Auditor-General which is made by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the advice of the Prime Minister. This is provided for in Clause (1) of Article 105 of the Constitution.

Similarly, the same rationale is offered as to why the appointment of the Auditor-General must be referred to the Conference of Rulers. He is responsible for the auditing of both accounts, Federal and States. As such, the Conference should be consulted on such an appointment.

- 4) The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members of the Public Services Commission are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. So are the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members of the Education Service Commission.

These appointments are made by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in his discretion but after considering the advice of the Prime Minister. However, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is also required by Clause (4) of Article 139 and Clause (2) of Article 141A of the Constitution to consult the Conference of Rulers.

- 5) The Conference must be consulted regarding the appointment of the Chairman and members of the Election Commission, which is made by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong pursuant to Clause (1) of Article 114 of the

TABLE 8.1

POSTS	APPOINTED BY	ON THE ADVICE OF CONSULTATION WITH	AFTER PROVISION	CONSTITUTIONAL
A member of the Armed Forces Council representing Their Royal Highnesses	Conference of Rulers			Art. 137 (3) (b)
Two members of the Special Court	Conference of Rulers			Art. 182 (1)
Chief Justice of Federal Court of Malaysia	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 122 B (1)
Chief Judge, States of Malaysia	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 122 B (1)
Chief Judge, Sabah and Sarawak	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 122 B (1)
Judges of the Federal Court	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 122 B (1)
Judges of the Court of Appeal	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 122 B (1)
Judges of High Court	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 122 B (1)
Auditor-General	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 105 (1)
Chairman and members of the Public Services Commission	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 139 (4)
Chairman and members of the Education Service Commission	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	Prime Minister	Conference of Rulers	Art. 141 A (2)
Chairman and members of the Election Commission	Yang di-Pertuan Agong	-	Conference of Rulers	Art. 114 (1)

Constitution. (In this case, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, is not required to consider the advice of anyone, including the Prime Minister, because the Prime Minister is a party to an election, since to qualify to be a Prime Minister one must be elected to the House of Representatives.)

- The Conference of Rulers also appoints two judges of the Special Court established under Article 182 of the Federal Constitution.

#### SPECIAL FUNCTION: PARDONS

The Constitution was amended in 1993, the result of which absolute immunities then enjoyed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Rulers are curtailed. The members of the Royal family can now be tried by a Special Court established under Article 182 of the Federal Constitution.

As a consequence of the amendment, the nature, power and composition of the Pardons Board are also changed. Where the power to grant pardons, reprieves and respites are to be exercised in respect of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Ruler of a State, or his Consort, as the case may be, such powers shall be exercised by the Conference of Rulers and the following provisions shall apply:

- when attending any proceedings under this Clause, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall not be accompanied by the Prime Minister and the other Rulers shall not be accompanied by their Menteri-Menteri Besar;
- before arriving at its decision on any matter under this Clause, the Conference of Rulers shall consider any written opinion which the Attorney-General may have delivered thereon.

Where the power to grant pardon, reprieves and respites are to be exercised in respect of the son or daughter of a Ruler, that Ruler shall be replaced by the Ruler of another state appointed by the Conference of Rulers.



Group photograph after the Federation and State Agreements Signing Ceremony at King's House, Kuala Lumpur on 21 January 1948.

Seated from left to right: Y.M. Dato' Undang Rembau, Y.M. Dato' Undang Jelebu; HRH Sultan Ismail, Sultan of Terengganu; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra, Raja of Perlis; HRH Paduka Seri Sultan Abdul Aziz, Sultan of Perak; HRH Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; HE Sir Edward Gent, British High Commissioner; HRH Sultan Abu Bakar, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah, Sultan of Selangor; HRH Tengku Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah; HRH Tengku Ibrahim, Sultan of Kelantan; Y.M. Dato' Klana Sungai Ujong; Y.M. Dato' Undang of Johor; and Y.M. Tengku Besar Tampin.



Malaysia Agreement Signing Ceremony at Malborough House, London on 8 July 1963 between Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Prime Minister of the Federation of Malaya and Mr. Duncan Sandys, Commonwealth Secretary. Consequent to this agreement, the states of Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore became a part of Malaysia.



Agreement for Independence Signing Ceremony on 8 February 1956 at Lancaster House London between Mr. A.T. Lennox-Boyd, Colonial Secretary and Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Prime Minister, Federation of Malaya. Subsequent to this Agreement being sealed and a number discussion sessions thereafter, the Federation of Malaya achieved her independence and became a member of the Commonwealth countries.

## 9 Other Matters Decided by the Conference:

# NATIONAL POLICY MATTERS

Article 38 (2) provides that the Conference of Rulers may deliberate on questions of national policy (for example changes in immigration policy) and any other matter that it deems fit.

Article 38 (3) provides that:

*"When the Conference deliberates on matters of national policy the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be accompanied by the Prime Minister, and the other Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri by their Menteri-Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers; and the deliberations shall be among the functions exercised, by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet, and by the other Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri in accordance with the advice of their Executive Councils".*

This clause was inserted as part of the provision of the Constitution as a matter of historical continuity. In 42 meetings before Merdeka, the Conference deliberated on almost every sphere of executive duties. It has to be borne in mind that the executive powers of the Federation then were vested in the British High Commissioner, and decisions made by him will one way or another affect the subjects of the Rulers. Therefore the Rulers must be consulted.

It should be noted that when the Federation of Malaya was established in 1948, the central and state governments had concurrent jurisdictions on the subjects. The subject of the Ruler of any State became a citizen of the Federation by operation of law. Therefore, Rulers must be consulted on matters affecting citizens.

Furthermore, because States form part of the Federation, any decision by the latter that will affect the former should be referred to the states concerned. Matters of national image, pride and concern, such as the Flag of the Federation, the national anthem, the coat-of-arms, the national flower and the seat of the Federal Capital were referred to the Conference of Rulers.

Appointments of high ranking British Officials to the Federation of Malaya were, as a matter of courtesy, referred to the Conference. For example, the appointment of the British High Commissioner, the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General, were referred to the Conference of Rulers to avoid appointing persons who would not be able to work closely with the Rulers.

### THE PRESENT POSITION

The executive authority of the Federation that was exercisable by the High Commissioner was transferred under the 1957 Constitution vested in the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Unlike the High Commissioner who was a civil servant, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is not. He is a King and a constitutional monarch. Under the constitutional monarchical system, the King, although vested with executive authority, must act on advice.

The same is true with the Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri of each state. Although the Ruler is vested with executive authority, he must act on advice. This is provided for in Section 1 in Part I of the Eighth Schedule to the Federal Constitution which, by virtue of Article 71 of the Federal Constitution, must be incorporated in the various

### State Constitutions.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the Head of the Federation, but he has no jurisdiction over matters that come within the purview of the State List specified in the Ninth Schedule. In a federation, consultation is necessary not only between the Federation and the States, but also among the states. Towards this end, the Constitution provides some mechanism for such consultation. The highest forum is of course the Conference of Rulers. There are also such National Councils as the National Land Council established by Article 91 of the Federal Constitution, the National Council for Local Government established under Article 95A and the National Finance Council established under Article 108. The Parliament itself is a much used forum for such consultation. Other than these forums, there are various periodical meetings which take place between the senior officials of the Federal Government and those of the State Governments.

Normally, if Federal and State Governments are ruled by the same party, no problem would arise. But if the Federal government is formed by one party, and the State government is formed by another party, problems are bound to arise. This happened in Kelantan (1959 - 1978 and 1990 until now), Terengganu (1959 - 1961), Pulau Pinang (1969 - 1974), Sabah (1985 - 1993), and Sarawak (1964 - 1966).

The Conference of Rulers is the last avenue for the State to bring out their grievances. Although it has no executive power, it can at least be used to air the views of the State.



Group photograph after the Federation of Malaya Agreement 1957 Signing Ceremony on 5 August 1957 at King's House, Kuala Lumpur.

Seated from left to right: HRH Tengku Mahkota of Johor, Tunku Ismail; HRH Sultan of Perak, Paduka Seri Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah; HRH Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Putra; HRH Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Abdul Rahman; HRH Sultan of Kedah, Sultan Badlishah, HRH Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah; HRH Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah; HRH Al-Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Ibrahim; and HRH Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah.



Declaration of Independence of the Federation of Malaya by Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra at Merdeka Stadium on 31 August 1957.

## 10 *Membership of the Conference*

*M*embership of the Conference grew as the Federation gets bigger. It started with four members, i.e. Selangor, Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang in 1896, then expanded to nine in 1948 with the addition of the then Unfederated Malay States of Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis and Terengganu. In 1957, the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka and Pulau Pinang were invited to join in, bringing the membership to 11. In 1963, after the formation of Malaysia, the number grew to 14 with the addition of the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah and Sarawak and Yang di-Pertua Negara of Singapore. However, by the end of August 1965, the membership dropped to 13 when Singapore left Malaysia. The number has remained at 13 for the past three decades.

### TITLES USED

The institution of the Conference of Rulers carries with it centuries old tradition and heritage. Based on the history one will find different names used in different states for the same designation, etc. The states want to maintain those traditions, even in salutation, resulting in confusion for those who do not know the history. We have read somewhere titles such as "The Sultan of Perlis", "The Sultanah of Negeri Sembilan", "The Menteri Besar of Melaka", "The Tengku Mahkota of Selangor", "The Raja Puan Muda of Pahang", etc. Even the name "Conference of Rulers" does not truly reflect the membership, since the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri, who are not Rulers, are also members.

### MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY "

Membership of the Conference is unique. There are three categories of membership, depending upon the agenda to be discussed.

#### 1) Full Membership

Section 1 of the Fifth Schedule provides:

*"The Conference of Rulers shall, subject to the following provisions of this Schedule, consist of Their Royal Highnesses the Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri of States not having a Ruler."*

However, a Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri may be represented by another person if so provided by the

19 Biodata of Rulers and Their Consorts who have served as Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong (see chapter 6, pp. 53-93).



Constitution of his State. Section 2 of the Fifth Schedule provides:

*"The place of His Royal Highness the Ruler of any State or the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of any State as a member of the Conference of Rulers may in any case in which the Constitution of that State so provides be taken by such person as that Constitution may provide."*

## 2) Rulers Only

Section 7 of the Fifth Schedule provides:

*"The Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri of States not having a Ruler shall not be members of the Conference of Rulers for purposes of any proceedings relating to the election or removal of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the election of the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong or relating solely to the privileges, position, honours and dignities of Their Royal Highnesses or to religious acts, observances or ceremonies."*

## 3) Members of the Conference of Rulers in Exercising Powers of Pardon

Where the Conference of Rulers exercises powers of the Pardons Board under Article 42 of the Federal Constitution in respect of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or a Ruler, then the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the Ruler concerned and all the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri shall not be members of the Conference.

## VARIATION IN OFFICIAL TITLES OF THE MEMBERS

The term "Ruler" is used in the English language to refer to the various sovereigns in Malaysia. However, in the Malay language, and as provided for in the various State Constitutions, a "Ruler" may be the "Raja" (as in the case of Perlis) or the "Yang di-Pertuan Besar" (as in the case of Negeri Sembilan) or the "Sultan" (as in the case of the remaining seven States) of the States concerned.

In the case of the Consorts of the Rulers, various titles are used as can be seen in Table 10.1. A point to note here is that under the Constitutions of the respective States, a Consort does not have a right to a title. The title has to be conferred on her. In several States, certain titles can only be conferred on Consorts who meet certain conditions. In Selangor for example, the title of "Tengku Ampuan" may only be conferred on a Consort who is of Royal Blood, is a Malay and a Muslim. Similar rules apply in Pahang. Since at present the Consorts of the Rulers of the States of Selangor and Pahang are not of Royal Blood, they have been conferred the titles "Cik Puan Besar Selangor" and "Sultananah", respectively.

The titles for an Heir to the throne and his consort also vary from State to State, as shown in Table 10.1. The titles for the Heirs are provided for in the respective State Constitutions. However, not all State Constitutions provide for the titles for their consorts. Examples of State Constitutions which do so provide are the State Constitutions of Kelantan, Perak, and Selangor.

## CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MEETINGS

The Chairmanship of the Meeting of the Conference is rotated among the nine Rulers according to the Rolls of the members as decided by the Conference. The Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri are excluded from the Rolls. The rotation is quite even among the States. If for any reason, a Ruler cannot chair a meeting, the Rulers present may decide that a meeting be presided over by any other Ruler.

## ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Attendance at a Meeting of the Conference is important. The main purpose of the Meeting of the Conference of Rulers was to have Rulers discuss matters of common interest once in every four months.

Realizing the importance of the Meeting and the attendance of the Members in such a meeting, Rule 6 provides that:

*"Attendance by members in a Meeting of the Conference is important. If, for any reason which cannot be avoided, a member is unable to attend, a representative shall be appointed according to the provision of the constitution of the state concerned."*

## THE PRESENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, MENTERI-MENTERI BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS

For purposes of a Meeting of the Conference, a Menteri Besar or Chief Minister is designated as a permanent advisor to the Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri. He must be present if the Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri is present (Rule 1). If he cannot be present for some inevitable reasons, the Ruler or the Yang di-Pertua Negeri shall appoint a temporary advisor specially appointed for a particular meeting. He shall be appointed from amongst the State Executive Council Member or if he is from Sabah or Sarawak, a State Minister. (Rule 2)

By virtue of Rule 3 of the 'Rules on Advisors', a Menteri Besar or his replacement is not required to attend the meeting if the Conference of Rulers is convened for purposes of election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or his Deputy. Since the Yang di-Pertua Negeri does not attend, therefore it follows that the Advisor's attendance is not necessary.

The name of the temporary Advisor taking the place of Permanent Advisor appointed by the Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri to accompany him must be communicated to the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal before the date set for the Meeting. (Rule 4)

The Menteri Besar or Chief Minister may lend his Yellow Book containing agenda, papers, reports, etc. of the Meeting of the Conference to the temporary Advisor for purposes of the meeting. Immediately after the end of the Meeting, the Yellow Book is required to be returned to the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister for safe-keeping. (Rule 5)

The Rule is silent as to the minutes of the Meeting in which a temporary Advisor attends the Meeting. Following the spirit of Rule 5, the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister is obliged to lend the minutes of the Meeting to the temporary Advisor for purposes of checking the accuracy of the content of the minutes. Since the Menteri Besar who was absent from the meeting did not know what had transpired at the Meeting, the minutes prepared by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal should be checked by the person who replaced him, and amended where necessary. To make it clear, Rule 9 of the Rules of Meeting, it is submitted, should be amended to reflect the requirement of Rule 5 of the Rules on Advisors.

It should be noted, however, that when the Conference deliberates on matters of national policy, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be accompanied by the Prime Minister and the other Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri shall be accompanied by their Menteri-Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers.

This is provided for in Article 38 (3) of the Federal Constitution:

*"When the Conference deliberates on matters of national policy the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be accompanied by the Prime Minister, and the other Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri by their Menteri-Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers; and the deliberations shall be among the functions exercised, by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet, and by the other Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri in accordance with the advice of their Executive Councils."*

TABLE 10.1  
VARIATIONS IN THE TITLES

NAME OF THE STATE	TITLE OF THE RULER	TITLE OF THE CONSORT	TITLE OF THE HEIR TO THE THRONE	TITLE OF THE CONSORT OF THE HEIR
Johor	Sultan	Sultannah/Permaisuri	Tunku Mahkota	-
Kedah	Sultan	Sultannah	Raja Muda	Raja Puan Muda
Kelantan	Al-Sultan	Raja Perempuan	Tengku Mahkota	Ampuan Mahkota
N. Sembilan	Yang di-Pertuan Besar	Tunku Ampuan	-	-
Pahang	Al-Sultan	Tengku Ampuan (presently the consort is conferred the title "Sultannah")	Tengku Mahkota	Tengku Puan Pahang
Perak	Paduka Seri Sultan	Raja Perempuan/ Raja Permaisuri	Raja Muda	Raja Puan Besar/ Che Puan Besar
Perlis	Raja	Raja Perempuan	Raja Muda Perlis	Raja Puan Muda
Selangor	Sultan	Tengku Ampuan (presently vacant)	Raja Muda	Raja Puan Muda
Terengganu	Sultan	Tengku Ampuan Besar	Yang di-Pertuan Muda	Tengku Ampuan Muda
Melaka	Yang di-Pertua Negeri	Isteri Yang di-Pertua Negeri	-	-
Pulau Pinang	Yang di-Pertua Negeri	Isteri Yang di-Pertua Negeri	-	-
Sabah	Yang di-Pertua Negeri	Isteri Yang di-Pertua Negeri	-	-
Sarawak	Yang di-Pertua Negeri	Isteri Yang di-Pertua Negeri	-	-

*Their Royal  
Highnesses the Rulers,  
H& the Yang  
di-Pertua - Yang  
di-Pertua Negeri  
&  
Their Consorts*



**HRH SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH ALHAJ**

D.K., D.M.N., S.F.M.S., S.S.S.A., D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Terengganu),  
D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Kedah),  
D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Pahang), S.P.D.K. (Sabah),  
D.P. (Sarawak), D.U.N.M. (Melaka), P.J.K.

**SULTAN OF SELANGOR**

**HRH SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH ALHAJ**

D.K., D.M.N., S.P.M.S., S.S.S.A., D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.K. (Terengganu),  
D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Kedah),  
D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Pahang), S.P.D.K. (Sabah),  
D.P. (Sarawak), D.U.N.M. (Melaka), P.J.K.

**SULTAN OF SELANGOR**

**A** RH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj was born on 8 March 1926 at Istana Bandar, Kuala Langat. He received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Pengkalan Batu, Klang in 1934, and in 1936 he continued his education at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar until December 1941 when World War II erupted.

In 1947, HRH continued his education at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London for two years. On his return, he served as a Probationary Officer in the Civil Service attached to the Survey Department of Selangor, and later he was appointed as Inspector of Schools for eight months. Later, HRH followed a short commission course at the Military College, Port Dickson for six months and was commissioned as a Captain in the Queen's Commission, and later promoted to the rank of Major.

HRH was appointed as Tengku Laksamana Selangor on 1 August 1946 and as Raja Muda Selangor on 13 May 1950. On the demise of his father, HRH Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj on 1 September 1960, he was appointed as HRH the Sultan of Selangor on 3 September 1960. He was installed on 28 June 1961. HRH is presently the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

On 26 April 1984, HRH was appointed as Captain-in-Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy.

His main recreation is golf and he is a well-known golfer, locally and internationally. His other recreations are boating and orchid planting, as well as travelling and paying official visits overseas.

HRH is blessed with four princes and six princesses from the previous marriages.

HRH is married to Y.T.M. Cik Puan Besar Selangor Siti Aishah.



Y.T.M. CIK PUAN BESAR SELANGOR SITI AISHAH  
D.K. (Selangor), D.A. (Sarawak)

*CONSORT TO THE SULTAN OF SELANGOR*

## Y.T.M. CIK PUAN BESAR SELANGOR SITI AISHAH

D.K. (Selangor), D.A. (Sarawak)

### CONSORT TO THE SULTAN OF SELANGOR

*Y*.T.M. Cik Puan Besar Selangor Siti Aishah was born on 18 November 1971. She received her early education at the Jalan Gurney Primary School, Kuala Lumpur, and continued her education at the Sekolah Menengah Putri Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur.

After completing her secondary education, she pursued her studies in Banking at the Institut Teknologi Mara, Kota Bharu, Kelantan. On 3 May 1990, with the Will of Allah, she married HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, the Sultan of Selangor.

She is the Patron to many organizations, namely the Selangor Girl Guides Association; Badan Kebajikan Isteri-isteri Wakil Rakyat Selangor (BALKIS); Selangor Women's Organization; Selangor Muslim Women's Organization; and welfare organizations of institutions of higher learning in Selangor.

For her contribution to society, she was conferred with Bintang Kebesaran Negeri Sarawak Datuk Amar (D.A.) by HE Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak. On the occasion of HRH the Sultan's birthday on 8 March 1996, Y.T.M. Cik Puan Besar Selangor was bestowed with Darjah Kerabat Yang Amat Dihormati (D.K.).

Her past times include reading and collecting books, cooking and golfing.





HRH SULTANAH HAJAH KALSOM

*SULTANAH OF PAHANG*

## HRH SULTANAH HAJAH KALSOM

### SULTANAH OF PAHANG

*H*RH Sultanah Hajah Kalsom was born on 12 September 1951. In 1996, she performed her pilgrimage in Mecca. HRH Sultanah Kalsom married HRH Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, the Sultan of Pahang on 14 March 1991. She was conferred the title of Sultanah of Pahang on 12 September 1992, her 41st birthday. The Royal couple are blessed with a prince, HH Tengku Fahd Mua'adzam ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah on 10 February 1994.

HRH Sultanah Kalsom often accompanies her husband, the Sultan of Pahang in visiting remote interior villages to see for herself the living condition of her subjects. She always accompany HRH the Sultan in attending official functions.

As the First Lady of Pahang, she is actively involved in welfare and charitable organizations, especially women's organizations. In that capacity, she took the opportunity to know her subjects intimately and understand their problems better.

Among the organizations that she patronizes are: Soroptimist International Association of Kuantan, an international organization set up to promote fraternity and brotherhood among members; The Pahang Girl Guides Association; the Islamic Women's Welfare Organization, Pahang Chapter; the Pahang Women's Institute; and the Pahang Netball Association.



HRH SULTAN ISMAIL PETRA IBNI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN YAHYA PETRA  
D.K., D.M.N., D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Perak), D.K.  
(Terengganu), D.K. (Perlis), D.K.M.B., D.P.S.S. (Sarawak),  
D.P. (Sarawak), S.P.M.K., S.J.M.K., S.P.K.K., S.P.S.K.

*AL-SULTAN OF KELANTAN*

## HRH SULTAN ISMAIL PETRA IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN YAHYA PETRA

D.K., D.M.N., D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Kedah),  
D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Perlis), D.K.M.B., D.P.S.S. (Sarawak),  
D.P. (Sarawak), S.P.M.K., S.J.M.K., S.P.K.K., S.P.S.K.

### AL-SULTAN OF KELANTAN

*H*RH Sultan Ismail Petra is the only son of the late HRH Sultan Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim and HRH Raja Perempuan Tengku Zainab ibni Almarhum Tengku Muhamad Petra, and was born on 11 November 1949, at the Istana Jahar. HRH was crowned as Kelantan's 28th Sultan on 30 March 1979, following the demise of his father, the late HRH Sultan Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur, while he was the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 29 March 1979.

HRH Sultan Ismail Petra was given a very early education privately to read and write. He also studied religion while still young and learnt the etiquette and the customs of Kelantan Royalty. He later studied at the Sultan Ismail College, Kota Bharu while at the same time an English tutor was engaged to give English lessons.

HRH was given the title "Tengku Mahkota Kelantan" on 11 November 1967, by his late father HRH Sultan Yahya Petra on his eighteenth birthday, and he was accordingly installed as Tengku Mahkota on the occasion of the late Sultan's fiftieth birthday, in 1968.

HRH has, since his coronation, shown keen interest in the affairs of the State and in matters regarding the State administration. He has been particularly interested in the economy and the social aspects of the State. He often accompanied his late father and sometimes represented him at State functions.

In April 1968, when he was Tengku Mahkota, HRH took an appointment in the State Secretariat and in the Kota Bharu Land Office in order to widen his knowledge in matters pertaining to the administration of the State. He attended various meetings of heads of departments in the State, in Kota Bharu as well as in the districts. He also visited various development projects in order to gain firsthand knowledge.

HRH Sultan Ismail Petra has three sons and one daughter. His three sons are HH Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra (the Tengku Mahkota), HH Tengku Muhammad Faiz Petra (Tengku Bendahara) and HH Tengku Muhammad Fakry Petra (Tengku Temenggong). His daughter is HH Tengku Amalin A'ishah Petri.

On 1 November 1974, HRH received an Honorary Royal Commission in the Territorial Army with the rank of Major and on 1 January 1976, he became an honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the same Regiment.

HRH is active in charity work of various kinds, especially those concerning the welfare of the people. He was patron of the Kelantan Branch of the Ex-Service Men's Association of Malaysia; the Committee for the Handicapped; the Kelantan Shooting Association; the Kelantan Planter's Association; the Council of the Justices of the Peace of Kelantan; and the Association of the Kelantan Civil Service.

When he was Tengku Mahkota, HRH was extremely interested in the Youth Movement and in sports. He is also very fond of reading local as well as imported books and magazines, making him conversant with national and international current affairs. His other interests are photography and music.

HRH is so interested in shooting that despite his busy schedules he always find time for this sport.

Under his rule Kelantan moves ever forward, slowly but surely, giving promise and hope to the people. This is largely because HRH pays very particular attention to the development of the State. As a ruler, a symbol of sovereignty of the State and Protector of the Religion of Islam HRH Sultan Ismail Petra is also a source hope and aspiration to the people of Kelantan.



HRH TENGKU ANIS BINTI  
TENGKU ABDUL HAMID  
D.K., D.K. II (Selangor), S.P.M.K., S.P.M.E (Perlis)  
RAJA PEREMPUAN OF KELANTAN

**HRH TENGKU ANIS BINTI  
TENGKU ABDUL HAMID**

D.K., D.K. II (Selangor) S.P.M.K., S.P.M.P. (Perlis)

**RAJA PEREMPUAN OF KELANTAN**

**A** RH Tengku Anis is the third daughter of HH Tengku Abdul Hamid bin Tengku Muda and HH Tengku Azizah binti Tengku Mohd. Hamzah, Tengku Seri Maharaja, who had been the State Secretary and then Menteri Besar of Kelantan for many years until his death.

HRH Tengku Anis was born in 1949 at Palm Manor, the residence of her grandfather. HRH Tengku Anis was given an early religious education by a special tutor at her residence. Later she was educated at the Zainab School, Kota Bharu where she obtained her Senior Cambridge Certificate and a Malaysia Certificate of Education.

Her marriage to HRH Sultan Ismail Petra was solemnised on 4 December 1968 at the Istana Kota Lama. She received the title of "Tengku Ampuan Mahkota" from the late HRH Sultan Yahya Petra on 1 January 1969 at the Istana Balai Besar. HRH was installed as Raja Perempuan Kelantan on 30 March 1979 concurrently with the coronation of HRH Sultan Ismail Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra as Sultan of Kelantan.

HRH Raja Perempuan is creative in nature who likes to spend time sewing and cooking, and she herself plans and arranges the interior decoration of the Royal residences. HRH Raja Perempuan takes great interest in the people of the State, especially the women and enjoys meeting, advising and encouraging them to keep abreast with times. She is very generous in helping the poor families in the rural areas.

The education standard of the children in the State is her first priority. This can help them to improve the standard of living and broaden their knowledge.

HRH is the patron of Tabung Berdikari Yayasan Kraftangan; Rumah Anak-anak Yatim Darul Naim; Old Girls Association of Zainab School; Women Institute; and the Girl Guides Association.

Their Royal Highnesses Sultan Ismail Petra and Raja Perempuan Tengku Anis are blessed with three sons and one daughter, namely HH Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra (Tengku Mahkota), HH Tengku Muhammad Faiz Petra (Tengku Bendahara), HH Tengku Muhammad Fakry Petra (Tengku Temenggong) and HH Tengku Amalin A'ishah Petri.



HRH SULTAN MAHMUD AL MUKTAFI BILLAH SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU AL SULTAN ISMAIL NASIRUDDIN SHAH  
D.K.T, D.K., D.M.N., S.S.M.T, S.F.M.T, D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Perak),  
D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Kelantan),  
D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.U.B.S., D.P. (Sarawak), S.P.C.M.

*SULTAN OF TERENGGANU*

**HRH SULTAN MAHMUD AL MUKTAFI BILLAH SHAH IBNI  
ALMARHUM TUANKU AL SULTAN ISMAIL NASIRUDDIN SHAH**

D.K.T., D.K., D.M.N., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T., D.K. (Johor), D.K. (Pahang), D.K. (Perak),  
D.K. (Selangor), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Kelantan),  
D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K.M.B. (Brunei), D.U.B.S., D.P. (Sarawak), S.P.C.M.

***SULTAN OF TERENGGANU***

*H*RH Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah was born in Kuala Terengganu on 29 April 1930. He received his early education at the Malay School and later at the English Crown Grammar School, Kuala Terengganu. He then continued his education in England between 1949-1954.

Terengganu was known as a state with abundant ocean resources, and a producer of fish and fishery products; that gift of Allah motivated HRH to pursue a diploma course in Fisheries in England between 1951-1954, a rare occupation for a crown prince.

HRH married HRH Tengku Ampuan Bariah binti Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj of Selangor on 22 March 1951 in Kuala Lumpur.

HRH was appointed Crown Prince with the title of Yang di-Pertuan Muda Terengganu on 18 December 1950. When his father HRH Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah was elected as the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, he was appointed as the Regent of Terengganu from 21 September 1965 until 20 September 1970. Again on 21 March 1979 he was appointed as the Regent when his father went on a State Visit overseas.

Upon the demise of his father HRH Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah on 20 September 1979, HRH Tuanku Mahmud was appointed as the Sultan of Terengganu on 20 September 1979 and was installed on 21 March 1981.

He was made Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Armoured Corps on 15 March 1980.

His major interest is golf, tennis, horse-riding, and photography. HRH captured in films are displayed on prints everywhere in the state, including the palace, government offices, the State Assembly Hall, the Terengganu State Museum and also at the Primula Park Royal Hotel.





HRH TENGKU AMPUAN BARIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH ALHAJ  
D.K., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T., D.K. (Selangor)

*TENGKU AMPUAN BESAR OF TERENGGANU*

**HRH TENGKU AMPUAN BARIAH BINTI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH ALHAJ**  
D.K., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T., D.K. (Selangor)

*TENGKU AMPUAN BESAR OF TERENGGANU*

*A* RH Tengku Ampuan Bariah binti Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj was born on 31 August 1933 in Klang, Selangor. Her birthday coincides with the National Day. She received her education at the Malay School, Klang and at the Malay Girls' College, Kuala Lumpur.

HRH married Tengku Mahmud who was then appointed as Yang di-Pertuan Muda Terengganu on 22 March 1951. She accompanied her husband to pursue his studies in England. While in the United Kingdom, she took a course in Domestic Science at the Cuckfield Park College, Sussex, England.

On her return to Malaya, she was conferred the title Tengku Puan Muda (Crown Princess) and on the demise of HRH Sultan Ismail, and HRH Tengku Mahmud was installed as the Sultan of Terengganu, she was in turn installed as Tengku Ampuan Besar Terengganu.

She was bestowed with the Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Terengganu (S.P.M.T.) in 1964, D.K. (Terengganu) in 1981, S.S.M.T. in 1982 and D.K. (Selangor) in 1985.

She is now the Patron of the Terengganu Women's Association.

HRH loves cooking, orchid planting and badminton.



HRH TUNKU NAQUIYUDDIN IBNI  
TUANKU JA'AFAR  
D.K., D.K.Y.R., S.P.N.S., P.P.T

*THE REGENT OF NEGERI SEMBILAN*

HRH TUNKU NAQUIYUDDIN IBNI  
TUANKU JA'AFAR  
D.K., D.K.Y.R., S.P.N.S., P.P.T

*THE REGENT OF NEGERI SEMBILAN*

*H*RH Tunku Naquiyuddin was born in Seri Menanti, Negeri Sembilan on 8 March 1947. He is the eldest prince of HM Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. HRH received his early education at Sekolah Tunku Besar Tampin, Negeri Sembilan, and continued his education at the Anderson School, Ipoh, Perak. He later went to the United Kingdom at the age of eight where he studied at the King's School in Canterbury. He later received a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Wales, Aberysthwyth, United Kingdom.

HRH married HRH Tunku Nurul Hayati binti Tunku Bahador in 1977 and are blessed with four princes and princesses.

HRH began his career as a Diplomat serving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1970 until 1975. He was appointed the Second Secretary at the Malaysian Embassy in Paris in 1972. He served in Paris for three years. On his return to Malaysia he continued his association with France. He was President of the Alliance Française de Kuala Lumpur for 18 years and was the founding President of the Malaysia-France Economic and Trade Association (MAFRETA). He speaks fluent French.

He is also the Chairman of the Wildlife Foundation of Malaysia and was a committee member of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). He served as a Council Member of the Business Council for Sustainable Development which was based in Geneva. In July 1996, HRH set up the Tunku Naquiyuddin Foundation, with a launching grant of RM1 million. The Foundation involved in awarding scholarships to promising and deserving primary and secondary school students. Twelve students from each state are awarded the scholarships each year.

An active sportsman, HRH plays golf, squash, water-skiing, wind-surfing and tennis.

Upon his father's election as the Tenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, HRH Tunku Naquiyuddin was appointed the Regent of Negeri Sembilan on 26 April 1994.



HRH TUNKU PUAN MUDA TUNKU DATO' SERI NURUL HAYATI BINTI  
TUNKU BAHADOR  
S.P.T.J.

*CONSORT TO THE REGENT OF NEGERI SEMBILAN*

HRH TUNKU PUAN MUDA TUNKU DATO' SERI NURUL HAYATI BINTI  
TUNKU BAHADOR  
S.P.T.J.

*CONSORT TO THE REGENT OF NEGERI SEMBILAN*

*H*RH Tunku Dato' Seri Nurul Hayati popularly known as the Tunku Puan Muda, was born in Kangar, Perlis. She received her early education at the Assunta Girls' School, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. While at school, she was very active in sports and athletics. She represented the school in 100 meters and relay and also a long-distance runner. After leaving school, she ventured into business, and established her own advertising agency.

HRH actively participated in various welfare organizations, including the Red Crescent Society of Negeri Sembilan, and sports organizations. She is the Patron of Negeri Sembilan Ladies' Badminton Association and Negeri Sembilan Ladies' Hockey Association.

In 1995, HRH established the Tunku Nurul Hayati Foundation with a launching grant of RM500,000. This Foundation provides shelter for poor children and act as a rehabilitation school for the non-achievers.

HRH married HRH Tunku Naqiyuddin in 1977 and are blessed with four princes and princesses.

Her hobby is tennis, water-skiing, squash and badminton. She enjoys reading and music and maintains an active interest in hydroponic culture.



**HE TUN DATUK SERI UTAMA SYED AHMAD ALHAJ BIN  
MAHMUD SHAHABUDIN**  
S.M.N., S.S.M., P.S.M., D.U.N.M., S.P.M.S., S.P.M.K., S.S.D.K., D.P.,  
S.P.D.K., P.N.B.S., P.G.D.K., J.M.N., J.P

**YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF MELAKA**

**HE TUN DATUK SERI UTAMA SYED AHMAD ALHAJ BIN  
SYED MAHMUD SHAHABUDIN**

S.M.N., S.S.M., P.S.M., D.U.N.M., S.P.M.S., S.P.M.K., S.S.D.K., D.P.,  
S.F.D.K., P.N.B.S., P.G.D.K., J.M.N., J.P

***YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF MELAKA***

*H*E Tun Datuk Seri Utama Syed Ahmad bin Syed Mahmud Shahabuddin was born in Kulim, Kedah on 4 May 1925. HE Tun is the third son of five brothers and sisters. HE received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Kulim in 1932 until 1935 and continued his education at the Sultan Abdul Hamid College, Alor Star until he passed his Senior Cambridge Examination in 1947.

HE began his career as an officer at the Kedah State Treasury in Alor Star from 1948 until 1955. HE Tun Syed Ahmad was elected to the first Federal Legislative Council in the 1955 General Election. During that period, HE was also appointed a member of the Kedah Executive Council (Ex-Co). In 1959, HE Tun was appointed as a Senator for a period of two years.

HE Tun had wide experience and actively engaged in politics. He was the Kedah UMNO Assistant Secretary (1951 - 1954), Kedah UMNO Secretary (1954 - 1967), Chairman, UMNO State Liaison Committee and Kedah National Front (1967 - 1978), UMNO Supreme Council Member (1968 - 1978), and Deputy Chairman, UMNO State Liaison Committee and Kedah National Front (1978 - 1984).

HE was appointed as Menteri Besar Kedah (1967 - 1978), Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs (1978 - 1982) and Malaysia's High Commissioner to Singapore (1982 - 1984). In 1984, HE Tun Syed Ahmad was appointed as HE the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka.

His hobbies are bird-rearing, music and reading. He is an ardent fan of golf and had participated in both local and international tournaments.

HE Tun married Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan Sharifah Haniffah binti Syed Alwi in 1950 and were blessed with six children. Toh Puan passed away on 5 July 1993 in Kuala Lumpur. In 1960, Tun married Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan Datuk Seri Datin Seri Utama Marfuza binti Sheikh Mohd. Osman and they are blessed with four children.





Y.A. BHG. TOH PUAN DATUK SERI DATIN SERI UTAMA MARFUZA BINTI  
SHEIKH MOHD OSMAN  
D.G.S.M.

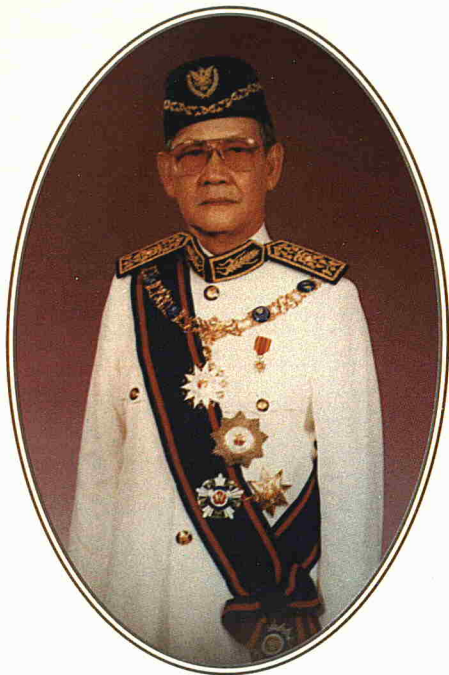
CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF MELAKA

**Y.A.BHG. TOH PUAN DATUK SERI DATIN SERI UTAMA MARFUZA BINTI  
SHEIKH MOHD OSMAN  
D.G.S.M.**

***CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF MELAKA***

*y*.A.Bhg. Toh Puan Datuk Seri Datin Seri Utama Marfuza binti Sheikh Mohd. Osman was born in Pulau Pinang in 1943. Y.A.Bhg. received her early education at the Convent English School, Pulau Pinang (1948 - 1954) and continued her education at the Methodist English School, Pulau Pinang (1955 - 1959). While at school, Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan was very active in sports. She represented the school in sports. Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan was also appointed as a class captain while in school. After finishing her form five, Y.A.Bhg. was interested in becoming a teacher. However, her ambition to be a teacher was not fulfilled when she decided to marry HE Tun Datuk Seri Utama Syed Ahmad Alhaj bin Syed Mahmud Shahabudin who, at that time, was a member of the Kedah State Executive Council. They were blessed with four children.

During her free-time, Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan likes sewing, stitching, knitting and weaving. Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan is also an expert in cake-making. Her recipe makes her cake famous, and she used to get orders from outside Melaka.



**HE TUN DATUK PATINGGI (DR.) HAJI AHMAD ZAIDI ADRUCE BIN  
MUHAMMED NOOR**

**S.M.N., S.S.M., D.P., S.P.M.S., S.S.M.T., D.U.N.M., D.U.P.N., S.P.D.K., P.N.B.S.  
BINTANG MAHAPUTRA ADIPRADANA (Indonesia), P.S.L.J., (Brunei)**

***YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SARAWAK***

## HE TUN DATUK PATINGGI (DR.) HAJI AHMAD ZAIDI ADRUCE BIN MUHAMMED NOOR

S.M.N., S.S.M., D.P., S.P.M.S., S.S.M.T., D.U.N.M., D.U.P.N., S.P.D.K., P.N.B.S.  
BINTANG MAHAPUTRA ADIPRADANA (Indonesia), P.S.L.J., (Brunei)

### *YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SARAWAK*

*H*E Tun Datuk Patinggi (Dr.) Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce bin Muhammed Noor was born in Sibul, Sarawak on 29 March 1924. He received his early education at Abang Ali School, Sibul and Chung Hwa School (English Department), Sibul. He later continued his education at the St. Thomas School, Kuching and the Anglo Chinese School, Singapore from 1938 till 1939.

Later, he continued his education at the Sultan Idris Teachers' Training College, Tanjung Malim, Perak. He was appointed Inspector of Malay School from 1940 until 1942. From 1943, until 1945 he pursued a course in Veterinary Science in Bogor, Java, Indonesia, i.e. during the Japanese Occupation. HE then continued his education at the University of Edinburgh from 1950 to 1954 and obtained a Masters Degree in Arts and Certificate of Education from the University of London, 1955.

HE began his career by serving as a lecturer at the Batu Lintang Teachers' Training College, Kuching from 1948 to 1949 and later became the Principal of Madrasah Melayu (Government Secondary School), Kuching from 1965 to 1966. He was later appointed as the Education Officer stationed in Sibul and then as Divisional Education Officer, later in Sri Aman. HE was appointed as the Vice-President of Kuching Municipal; a Committee Member of the State Scholarship Board; Member of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation; Secretary of the Sarawak Scouts' Council; Commissioner of Sea Scouts; Vice-President of Sarawak Youth Council; Committee Member of Sarawak Anti-Corruption Agency; a Member of the Board of Visitors Kuching Prison; and a Member of the Government Examination Board.

In his political career, HE was made representative of KMM for Sarawak in 1943 (by Ibrahim Yaakub). He was at Veterinary College in Bogor, Java and was dragged into the Indonesian struggle for independence for several years. During the colonial era in Sarawak, he was the President of Barisan Pemuda Sarawak (Native Organisation) and he chaired the first Mass Meeting held to support Malaysia concept in Sibul before the formation of Malaysia. HE was elected as the Member of Sarawak State Legislative Assembly of Kalaka in 1974, and was appointed as Minister of Local Government and Housing Sarawak from 1974 until 1976, and as Minister of Housing and Development, Sarawak from 1977 till 1979.

HE Tun Datuk Patinggi (Dr.) Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce bin Muhammed Noor was appointed as the Fifth Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak on 2 April 1985; he was reappointed in 1989 and again reappointed in 1993 until today.

HE was conferred with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on 6 August 1993.

HE married Y.A.Bhg. Datuk Patinggi Hajah Rosmiati on 21 June 1965 and are blessed with four children, two boys and two girls.



Y.A.BHG. DATUK PATINGGI HAJAH ROSMIATI  
D.P., S.P.M.B. (Brunei)

CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SARAWAK

**Y.A.BHG. DATUK PATINGGI HAJAH ROSMIATI**

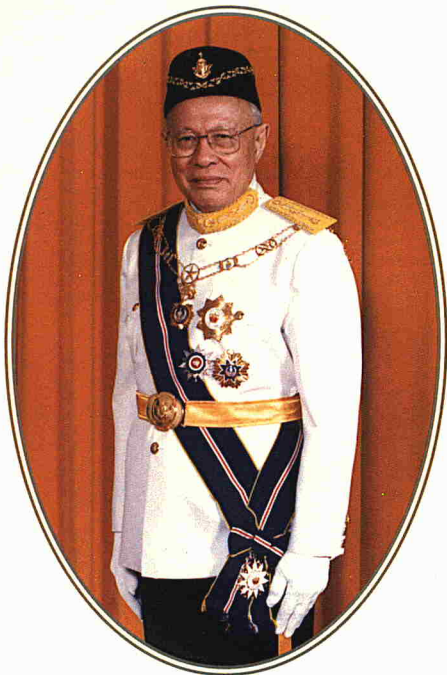
**D.P., S.P.M.B. (Brunei)**

**CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SARAWAK**

*Y*.A.Bhg. Datuk Patinggi Hajah Rosmiati was born in Majalengka, West Java, Indonesia on 3 January 1939. She received her early education at the School of Home Economics for Girls, Majalengka. Since the early days, she liked sewing, knitting and cooking. Y.A.Bhg. has been appointed as Patron to several organisations and Women Institute at state level, such as the Federation of Women Institute Sarawak and the Girl Guides Association of Sarawak.

On 16 September 1988, in conjunction with the 65th Official Birthday of the Head of State, Y.A.Bhg. was bestowed with the Most Eminent Order of the Most Esteemed Star of Kenyalang Sarawak which carries the title of Datuk Patinggi. In conjunction with the visit of the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam to Sarawak on 9 March 1989, she was also bestowed the Most Distinguished Order of the Crown of Brunei.

Y.A.Bhg. Datuk Patinggi Hajah Rosmiati married HE the Head of State of Sarawak Tun Datuk Patinggi (Dr.) Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce on 21 June 1965. They are blessed with four children, two sons and two daughters.



HE TUN DATO' SERI (DR.) HAJI HAMDAN BIN  
SHEIKH TAHIR

S.M.N., P.S.M., D.U.P.N., D.P., D.M.P.N., K.M.N.

YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF PULAU PINANG

## HE TUN DATO' SERI (DR.) HAJI HAMDAN BIN SHEIKH TAHIR

S.M.N., P.S.M., D.U.P.N., D.P., D.M.P.N., K.M.N.

### YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF PULAU PINANG

**H**E Tun Dato' Seri (Dr.) Haji Hamdan bin Sheikh Tahir was born to a well-known Ulama', Sheikh Tahir Jalaluddin in Pulau Pinang on 27 April 1921. He received his early education at the Primary Malay School, Kuala Kangsar, before proceeding to complete his secondary education at Clifford School in the same town. He pursued his tertiary education at Raffles College, Singapore, and obtained a Diploma of Arts in 1946. He was appointed a qualified graduate teacher at Clifford School, Kuala Kangsar, after passing the examination of the Normal Class Teachers Training Course in 1947.

He was awarded a scholarship to study at the University of Nottingham in 1949 and succeeded to obtain a Certificate of Youth Leadership in 1950. He then joined University of London at the Institute of Education in 1950 to obtain a Professional Certificate of Education in 1951. On his return to Malaya, he continued to teach at the Clifford School until he was transferred to Sekolah Iskandar Shah, Parit, Perak, from 1952 to 1954.

HE was awarded a scholarship to join the Honours Degree Course at the University of Malaya, Singapore, and he succeeded to obtain a Bachelor Degree of Arts in Geography with Honours in 1956. Since then he was appointed an education officer to the Ministry of Education. He was appointed as the Organiser of Secondary Schools at the Ministry to plan for a number of new residential schools such as Sekolah Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Sekolah Dato' Abdul Razak and Sekolah Tun Fatimah. He was transferred to Sekolah Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Ipoh, as the first Headmaster of the school.

In 1960, HE was reassigned to the Ministry of Education, Kuala Lumpur, and was promoted to the position of Principal Secretary in the Training and Scholarships Division from 1960 to 1963. He was then transferred to become the Controller of Examinations Malaysia from 1963 - 1966. He was again promoted to become the Director-General of Education Malaysia to replace the late Encik Aminuddin Baki in 1966. He held the post of Director-General of Education for ten years until he retired in 1976. He was then appointed as the Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang in 1976, where he remained to be Head of the University for six years until 1982. He was then appointed as the Permanent Delegate of Malaysia and the Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris, France, from 1982 to 1986. He was appointed as HE Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang as from 1 May 1989. On 1 August 1993, he was appointed as the Chancellor of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia.

HE was appointed a member and later the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka from 1966 to 1976. While he acted as the Director-General of Education, Malaysia, he served as a member of several educational institutions such as the College of Agriculture, Serdang (now Universiti Pertanian Malaysia), the Technological Institute (now Universiti Teknologi Malaysia) and also the Royal Military College Malaysia. He was also elected as the Chairman, Malaysian Historical Society for over 20 years and also the President of the Malaysian Life Saving Society from 1976 to 1989. Among his many awards, he received the Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Malaya in 1976, the Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Universiti Sains Malaysia in 1984 and the Honorary Doctorate of Letters (Honoris Causa) from the University of Deakin, Australia in 1991.

HE has been conferred while in Pulau Pinang the following awards: "Fellow" of the Malaysian Historical Society in 1989; "Paul Harris Fellow" by the Rotary Clubs in 1990; "Pendidik Istimewa" by the Minister of Education Malaysia in 1991; "Datuk Bagindo Sati" by the Governor of Sumatera Barat 1991; " Melvin Jones Fellow" by the

Continued on page 135





**Y.A.BHG. TOH PUAN DATO' SERI HAJAH SITI ZAINAB BINTI  
HAJI BAHARUDDIN  
D.U.P.N., A.M.N., P.J.K.**

**CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF PULAU PINANG**

**Y.A.BHG. TOH PUAN DATO' SERI HAJAH SITI ZAINAB BINTI  
HAJI BAHARUDDIN**  
D.U.P.N., A.M.N., P.J.K.

**CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF PULAU PINANG**

*Y*.A.Bhg. Toh Puan Dato' Seri Hajah Siti Zainab binti Haji Baharuddin was born in Parit Buntar, Perak on 1 November 1926. She received her early education at Sekolah Perempuan Melayu Batu Gajah and continued her education at the Government English School, Batu Gajah (now Sultan Yusoff School). After the war, she continued her education at the same school and obtained the Cambridge School Certificate. As she was identified to take over as a Lady Supervisor of Malay Schools in Kedah, she was sent for training at the Malay Women Teachers' Training College in Melaka, and while she was there the British Council offered her a scholarship to study at the Women Teachers' Training College at Watford, London. After completing the course, she returned to Malaysia then Malaya. Four months later she was again sent to England to study at Kirkby Teachers' Training College, Liverpool for two years.

Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan started her career as Lady Supervisor of Malay Schools in Kedah attached to the Kedah Education Department in Alor Setar. She was later made Senior Assistant of Jalan Cochrane Secondary School Kuala Lumpur; as Headmistress in Padang Tembak, Primary and Secondary Schools, Kuala Lumpur; Organiser of Primary Schools in Selangor and as Headmistress of Jalan Residency Primary School, Pulau Pinang. She had served the nation as an educator for more than three decades until her husband was posted to UNESCO, Paris in 1983.

In her voluntary activities, Y.A.Bhg. was appointed Honorary Treasurer, Lembaga Kebajikan Islam, Persekutuan Tanah Melayu; as a Board Member of Rumah Kanak-Kanak Tengku Budriah, Cheras; and as President, Pulau Pinang Women's Hockey Association. She was also appointed as Advisor to the Women's Association of Universiti Sains Malaysia; Board Member of Tadika Perkim, Pulau Pinang; and a committee member of the Federation of Orchid Societies of Pulau Pinang and Seberang Prai.

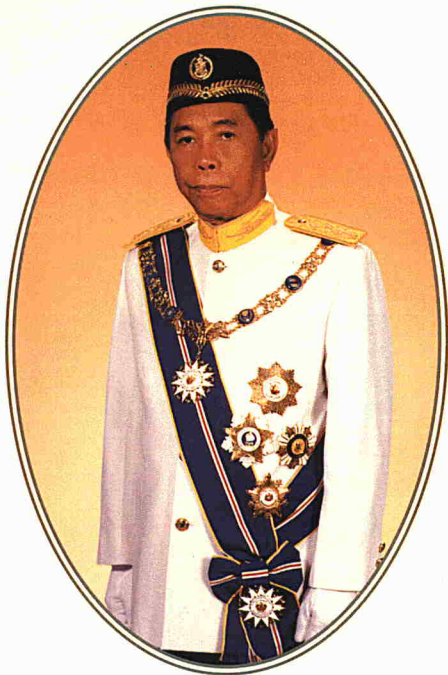
Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan married HE Tun Dato' Seri (Dr.) Haji Hamdan bin Sheikh Tahir on 1 September 1956 and they are blessed with three children and four grandchildren. For her services to the nation, she was decorated with A.M.N. (1975), P.J.K. (1980), D.U.P.N. (1994).

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Lions International Clubs in 1992; "Khidmat Cemerlang Majlis Sukan Sekolah-Sekolah Malaysia" by the Minister of Education, Malaysia in 1992; "Honorary Life President" of the Malaysian Life Savings Society in 1992; "Grand Cordon of the Order of Rising Sun" by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan in 1993; "Tokoh Maal Hijrah" by HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Malaysia in 1995; and "Pingat Semangat Padi" by the Malaysian Scouts Association in 1996.

HE has been re-appointed the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar for a third term as from 1 May 1997, and at the same time renewed his appointment as the Chancellor of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, also as from the same date.



HE TUN DATUK SERI PANGLIMA HAJI SAKARAN BIN  
DANDAI

S.M.N., P.S.M., S.P.D.K., D.U.N.M., P.G.D.K., A.D.K., J.P.

YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SABAH

**HE TUN DATUK SERI PANGLIMA HAJI SAKARAN BIN  
DANDAI**

S.M.N., P.S.M., S.P.D.K., D.U.N.M., P.G.D.K., A.D.K., J.P.

***YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SABAH***

*H*E Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran was born in Semporna on 15 April, 1930. He received his early education at the Semporna Malay School until 1941. He continued his education at Islamic Religious School from 1945 - 1948.

HE Tun commenced his career in the Public Service as a clerk at the Semporna District Office in 1948 and went on to become the chief clerk in 1960 until his retirement in 1967.

During his political career, HE Tun has been elected as State Assemblyman and has held portfolios of Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in Sabah (1971-74); Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (1974-76), and Minister of Land and Cooperative Development (1990-91).

In 1994, HE Tun won the General Election in Sabah in the constituency of Sulabayan and was appointed Chief Minister of Sabah on 17 March 1994 and remained in this service for nine months. HE Tun was also once appointed Liaison Chairman of Sabah UMNO, elected UMNO Supreme Council Member and President of USIA.

HE Tun Haji Sakaran married Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan Datin Seri Panglima Hajah Sitti Rukiyah binti Datuk Panglima Abdullah.

HE Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran Dandai took the oath as the Eighth Yang di Pertua Negeri of Sabah on 1 January 1995.



**Y.A.BHG. TOH PUAN DATIN SERI PANGLIMA HAJAH SITTI RUKAIYAH  
BINTI DATUK PANGLIMA ABDULLAH**

**CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SABAH**

**Y.A.BHG. TOH PUAN DATIN SERI PANGLIMA HAJAH SITTI RUKAIYAH  
BINTI DATUK PANGLIMA ABDULLAH**

***CONSORT TO THE YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF SABAH***

*y*.A.Bhg. Toh Puan Datin Seri Panglima Hajah Sitti Rukaiyah binti Datuk Panglima Abdullah was born on 18 December 1943 at Semporna, Sabah. Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan was appointed as a teacher in Sekolah Kebangsaan Semporna from 1959 till 1961. She stopped her teaching career after marrying HE Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran bin Dandai in 1964.

Presently, Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan is a patron of Sabah Girl Guides Association. She was also appointed as Patron of Puspanita Sabah and served as Patron of Puspanita Ministry of Land and Cooperative Development from 1990 until 1991.

Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan served as the Secretary of USNO Women's Branch when the party was formed in the early 1960s. As part of her dakwah activities, Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan was appointed as the Patron of USIA, a Muslim voluntary organisation in Sabah.

Her hobbies include cooking and sewing.

Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan married Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran bin Dandai in 1964 and they are blessed with five children.



Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, the first Prime Minister of Malaysia presenting the royal address document to HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in conjunction with the first official opening of the Parliamentary Session of the Federation of Malaya at Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman on 11 September 1959.

# *T*TS ROLE IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

*T*he federation came of age as a full-fledged nation upon independence in 1957. Since then, the family of States has expanded, having welcomed Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore into the fold. The boundaries of the Federation have been extended to stretch from Perlis on one end to Sabah on the other. With the extension of the boundaries, the name Federation of Malaya was changed to the Federation of Malaysia.

Prior to that, the Conference of Rulers which started with a family of four members in 1896 had expanded to one which consisted of nine members with the inclusion of the Unfederated Malay States of Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis and Terengganu. Later, the former Straits Settlement of Melaka and Pulau Pinang came into the fold. In 1963, the family admitted three new members. However in 1965, Singapore left the Federation. Now the membership of the family stands at 13.

In a federal system of government, there are always two parallel sets of laws, two parallel sets of organizations, and two groups of personnel; one at the federal level, and the other at state level. They are both complementary and supplementary.

A federal constitution would normally incorporate adequate mechanism that acts as a safety-valve to check any instances may tend to jeopardise the concept of federalism. The Senate is one, and the Conference of Rulers is another.

It is noteworthy that each Ruler represents his state in the Conference; similarly, the Menteri-Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers. They are there to provide a "check and balance" between Federal and state powers, so that Federal powers do not encroach into the state and state powers are not eroded by the Federal. The same is true with the 26 members elected by the State Legislative Assemblies to represent the States in the Senate (Dewan Negara). They must champion the cause of the States they represent.

A Federal officer seconded to a State is expected to be loyal to the State, not to his substantive employer. The position that one holds is more important than the personality of the holder.



## THE SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

In Malaysia, only the Constitution is supreme unlike the British Parliament. Our Parliament does not have unlimited power because Malaysia is a federation with a written constitution which is rather rigid. Our Parliament derives its power from the Constitution which divides legislative power between the federation on the one hand and individual states on the other. It specifies the subjects for which the Federal Government is responsible and on which Parliament may make laws; as well as subjects for which State Governments are responsible and on which the State Legislatures may make laws.

The Constitution also spells out matters for which both the Federal and State Governments may be responsible, and on which both Parliament and the State Legislatures may make laws.

"Thus Parliament may legislate only on specific subjects, such as foreign affairs, defence, and education and the like. In this field where it enjoys legislative competence, it is supreme in the sense that there is no law which it cannot make, repeal or amend, that no person can declare its Act invalid, and that it cannot legislate to prevent the repeal or amendment of its own enactments.

But outside federal (and concurrent) subjects Parliament is not supreme, and if it makes law on local government, or on Muslim law, outside the Federal Territory, both being state subjects, that law may be declared void by the courts."<sup>20</sup>

Even federal law on a federal subject may be declared void by the courts, if it is inconsistent with the Federal Constitution, for the Constitution expressly provides by Article 4 (1) that it is the supreme law of the land and that any law passed after Merdeka Day which is inconsistent with the Constitution is, to the extent of the inconsistency, void.

In Malaysia no single institution is supreme, corresponding to the British Parliament. What is supreme in Malaysia is the Constitution itself.

The legislative power of the various legislative bodies in the country must be exercised subject to the constraints of the Federal Constitution. The judicial power of the courts must be exercised subject to the constraints of the Federal Constitution. The power of HM as head of the three branches of Government (the legislative, the judicial and the executive) must be exercised subject to the constraints of the same Constitution.<sup>21</sup>

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20 Tun Mohamed Suffian, *op.cit.* p.18

21 Tun Mohamed Suffian, *ibid.* p. 19

# THE PRIME MINISTER, MENTERI-MENTERI BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS ACCOMPANYING THE RULERS

The Constitution requires that when the Conference deliberates on matters of national policy, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be accompanied by the Prime Minister, and the other Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri by their Menteri-Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers.

Normally, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Prime Minister attend the second day of the Meeting, while the Rulers and Menteri-Menteri Besar attend both days. The day before the date set for the meeting is normally devoted to Pre-Council Meeting and the Meeting of the Scholarship Board.

## WHY ADVISORS?

There are several reasons why the Constitution requires that Rulers must be accompanied by Menteri-Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers as Advisors.

### 1) Rulers to Act on Advice

Articles 39 and 40 of the Federal Constitution provide that:

"39. The executive authority of the Federation shall be vested in the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and exercisable, subject to the provisions of any federal law and of the Second Schedule, by him or by the Cabinet or any Minister authorised by the Cabinet, but Parliament may by law confer executive functions on other persons."

"40.(1) In the exercise of his functions under this Constitution or federal law the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or of a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet, except as otherwise provided by this Constitution; but shall be entitled, at his request, to any information concerning the government of the Federation which is available to the Cabinet."

### 2) The Accountability of the Head of Government to the *Rakyat*

Rulers are constitutional monarchs. They are not, however, elected by the *rakyat*. Similarly, the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri are appointed to their respective offices. They are also not elected by the *rakyat*. The Menteri-Menteri Besar, and Chief Ministers on the other hand, represent the voice of the people and are accountable to the people. The *rakyat* speak through their elected representatives, not the Rulers.

Therefore, in any discussion on matters of national policy, the Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri are required to listen to the advice given by their respective Menteri-Menteri Besar/Chief Ministers.

### 3) First-Hand Knowledge

The Menteri Besar or Chief Minister, as head of government, normally has first-hand information on any subject matter within the jurisdiction of the State. Since he is in constant contact with his Executive Council members and also with his Assemblymen, he is in a better position to advise the Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri on any problem.

### 4) Easy Access to Officials

The Menteri Besar or Chief Minister can mobilize all State Government officials to assist him in carrying out the responsibility entrusted to him. This option is not open to the Ruler or Yang di-Pertua Negeri, who must act through the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister. The presence of the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister therefore will facilitate discussion and the implementation of decisions taken.

For these reasons therefore, Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri need to be accompanied by their respective Menteri-Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers.

## DISCRETIONARY POWERS

Article 38 (6) of the Federal Constitution provides that when the Conference discusses the following matters, the Rulers can act in their own discretion:

- (a) the election or removal from office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or the election of the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong;
- (b) the advising on any appointment;
- (c) the giving or withholding of consent to any law altering the boundaries of a State or affecting the privileges, position, honours or dignities of the Rulers;
- (d) the agreeing or disagreeing to the extension of any religious acts, observances or ceremonies to the Federation as a whole;
- (e) the appointment of members of the Special Court under Clause (1) of Article 182; or
- (f) the granting of pardons, reprieves and respites, or of remitting, suspending or commuting sentences, under Clause (12) of Article 42."

TABLE 12  
LIST OF PREVIOUS ADVISORS TO THE RULERS WHO HAD  
ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE OF RULERS (1948 - 1996)

STATE	ADVISOR	PERIOD OF SERVICE
JOHOR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dato' Onn bin Jaafar</li> <li>2. Dato' Syed Abdul Kadir bin Mohamed</li> <li>3. Dato' Wan Idris bin Wan Ibrahim</li> <li>4. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Hassan bin Haji Yunus</li> <li>5. Tan Sri Haji Osman bin Mohd. Saat</li> <li>6. Dato' Abdul Ajib bin Ahmad</li> <li>7. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Mulyiddin bin Haji Mohd. Yassin</li> <li>8. Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani bin Othman</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 9.47 - 19.2.52</li> <li>20.2.52 - 5.6.55</li> <li>1.10.55 - 6.6.59</li> <li>27.6.59 - 31.1.67</li> <li>18.5.69 - 26.4.82</li> <li>27.4.82 - 12.8.86</li> <li>13.8.86 - 2.5.95</li> <li>3.5.95 until now</li> </ol>
KEDAH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tuan Haji Mohamad Sheriff bin Osman (later Dato')</li> <li>2. Tunku Ismail bin Tunku Yahaya (later Dato')</li> <li>3. Dato' Syed Omar bin Syed Abdullah Shahabuddin</li> <li>4. Dato' Seri Syed Ahmad bin Syed Mahmud Shahabuddin</li> <li>5. Dato' Seri Syed Nahar Shahabuddin</li> <li>6. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Osman bin Haji Aroff</li> <li>7. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Sanusi bin Junid</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1948 - 1954</li> <li>1954 - 27.5.59</li> <li>28.5.59 - 7.12.67</li> <li>14.12.67 - 11.6.78</li> <li>8.7.78 - 27.1.85</li> <li>28.1.85 - 15.8.96</li> <li>16.6.96 until now</li> </ol>
KELANTAN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dato' Nik Ahmad Kamil bin Nik Mahmud (Dato' Sri Setia di-Raja)</li> <li>2. Tengku Mohd. Hamzah bin Tengku Zainal Abidin (Tengku Seri Maharaja)</li> <li>3. Dato' Haji Ishak Lotti bin Omar (Dato' Bentara Jaya)</li> <li>4. Dato' Haji Mohd. Asri bin Haji Muda (Dato' Sri Paduka Raja)</li> <li>5. Dato' Haji Mohamed bin Nasir (Dato' Biji Sura)</li> <li>6. Tan Sri Haji Mohammed bin Yaacob (Dato' Bentara Kanan)</li> <li>7. Tuan Guru Dato' Haji NIK Abdul Aziz bin Nik Mat</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1944 - 1953</li> <li>1953 - 1959</li> <li>1959 - 1964</li> <li>1964 - 1973</li> <li>1973 - 1978</li> <li>1978 - 1990</li> <li>23.10.90 until now</li> </ol>

STATE	ADVISOR	PERIOD OF SERVICE
MELAKA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Datuk Kurnia Jasa Othman bin Talib</li> <li>Encik Abdul Ghafar bin Beba (later Tun)</li> <li>Datuk Haji Talib bin Karim</li> <li>Datuk Setia Haji Abdul Ghani bin Ali</li> <li>Datuk Seri Mohd. Adib bin Mohd. Adam</li> <li>Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahim bin Tamby Chik</li> <li>Datuk Seri Haji Mohd. Zin bin Haji Ab. Ghani</li> </ol>	<p>31. 8.57 – 31. 5.59  1. 6.59 – 5.10.67  6.10.67 – 31. 7.72  1. 8.72 – 10. 7.78  11. 7.78 – 25. 4.82  26. 4.82 – 13.10.94  14.10.94 until now</p>
NEGERI SEMBILAN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dato' Haji Abdul Malek bin Yusof (later Tun) (Kapt. Mohamed Salleh Haji Sulaiman (Acting)) (Encik Abdul Aziz bin Haji Majid (Acting))</li> <li>Dato' Shamsuddin bin Naim (Encik Mohd. Shariff bin Abdul Samad (Acting))</li> <li>Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Mohamed Said bin Mohamed</li> <li>Dato' Mansor bin Osman</li> <li>Dato' Rais bin Yatim</li> <li>Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Haji Abdul Samad</li> </ol>	<p>1. 2.48 – 14. 4.52  11. 8.50 – 1. 1.51  15. 4.52 – 1.10.53  1.10.53 – 31. 1.59  1. 4.59 – 22. 6.59  23. 6.59 – 9. 5.69  10. 5.69 – 11. 7.78  12. 7.78 – 25. 4.82  26. 4.82 until now</p>
PAHANG	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dato' Setia Wangsa Sir Mahmud bin Mat</li> <li>Orang Kaya Indera Shahbandar, Dato' Abdul Razak bin Dato' Hussain</li> <li>Tengku Panglima Perang, Tengku Muhamad ibni Almarhum Sultan Ahmad</li> <li>Datuk Kurnia Paduka Raja Abdullah bin Tok Muda Ibrahim</li> <li>Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan, Wan Abdul Aziz bin Ungku Haji Abdullah</li> <li>Dato' Bentara Raja, Tan Sri Yahaya bin Haji Mohd. Seth</li> <li>Dato' Kurnia Bistari, Haji Abdul Aziz bin Ahmad</li> <li>Dato' Seri Haji Muhamad bin Jusoh</li> <li>Tuan Haji Abdul Rahim bin Abu Bakar</li> <li>Dato' Abdul Rashid bin Abd. Rahman</li> <li>Dato' Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak</li> <li>Tan Sri Mohd. Khalil bin Yaacob</li> </ol>	<p>1. 2.48 – 31. 1.51  1. 2.51 – 15. 6.55  15. 6.55 – 8. 1.57  9. 1.57 – 18. 7.59  18. 7.59 – 5. 5.64  5. 5.64 – 1. 9.72  1. 9.72 – 31. 8.74  1. 9.74 – 18. 7.78  18. 7.78 – 6.11.81  7.11.81 – 4. 5.82  5. 5.82 – 14. 8.86  14. 8.86 until now</p>

STATE	ADVISOR	PERIOD OF SERVICE
PERAK	1. Dato' Haji Abdul Wahab bin Toh Muda Abdul Aziz, Orang Kaya-kaya Panglima Bukit Gantang Seri Amar Diraja 2. Dato' Haji Mohd. Ghazali bin Haji Jawi 3. Dato' Kurnia Jaya Haji Shaari bin Shafie 4. Dato' Seri Ahmad bin Said 5. Dato' Seri Haji Kamaruddin bin Haji Mohd. Isa 6. Tan Sri Haji Mohd. Ghazali bin Haji Jawi 7. Dato' Seri Haji Wan Mohamed bin Haji Wan Teh 8. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Ramli bin Ngah Talib, Orang Kaya-kaya Seri Agar Diraja	1. 2.48 – 31.7.57  1. 8.57 – 15.4.80 16. 4.60 – 6.5.54 7. 5.64 – 17.3.70 18. 3.70 – 3.8.74 4. 9.74 – 30.9.77 1.10.77 – 28.2.83  1. 3.83 until now
PERLIS	1. Raja Haji Ahmad bin Raja Endut (later Dato') (Dato' Ahmad bin Haji Husin (Acting)) (Dato' Laksamana Mohd. Razalli bin Haji Mohd. Ali Wasil (Acting)) (Dato' Abdullah bin Sahat (Acting)) (Dato' Laksamana Mohd. Razalli bin Haji Mohd. Ali Wasil (Acting)) (Dato' Mohd. Shamsuddin bin Mohd. Ya'acob (Acting)) 2. Dato' Sheikh Ahmad bin Mohd. Hashim (Dato' Ahmad bin Musa (Acting)) (Dato' Ahmad bin Musa (Acting)) 3. Datuk Jaafar bin Hassan (Encik Yusoff bin Abu Bakar (Acting)) 4. Dato' Ali bin Ahmad 5. Tan Sri Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawan Teh 6. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim	1. 2.48 – 20.9.56 1.12.51 – 1.3.52 16. 3.55 – 18.9.55  21. 9.56 – 31.1.57 1. 2.57 – 30.4.59  1. 5.59 – 27.5.59  28. 5.59 – 31.12.71 18. 4.62 – 3.6.62 22. 2.67 – 8.5.67 1. 1.72 – 22.1.81 19.12.72 – 5.2.73 23.1.81 – 14.8.86 15.8.86 – 5.5.95 6.5.95 until now
PULAU PINANG	1. Tan Sri Wong Pow Nee 2. Tun Dr. Lim Chong Eu 3. Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Koon	31.8.57 – 11.5.69 12.5.69 – 24.10.90 25.10.90 until now

STATE	ADVISOR	PERIOD OF SERVICE
SABAH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tun Mohd. Fuad Stephens</li> <li>2. Encik Peter Lo Su Yin (later Dato')</li> <li>3. Tun Datu Mustapha bin Datu Harun</li> <li>4. Tan Sri Mohd. Said Keruak</li> <li>5. Tun Mohd. Fuad Stephens</li> <li>6. Datuk Harris bin Mohd. Salleh</li> <li>7. Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan</li> <li>8. Tan Sri Sekaran bin Dandal (later Tun)</li> <li>9. Datuk Haji Mohd. Salleh bin Tun Mohd. Said</li> <li>10. Datuk Yong Teck Lee</li> </ol>	<p>31. 8.63 – 31.12.64  1.91.65 – 10. 5.67  11. 5.67 – 31.10.75  1.11.75 – 14. 4.76  15. 4.76 – 6. 6.76  7. 6.76 – 21. 2.85  22. 4.85 – 16. 3.94  17. 3.94 – 26.12.94  27.12.94 – 27. 5.96  28. 5.96 until now</p>
SARAWAK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Datuk Stephen Kalong Ningkan</li> <li>2. Penghulu Tajul anak Sli (later Datuk)</li> <li>3. Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Rahman bin Ya'kub (later Tun)</li> <li>4. Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud</li> </ol>	<p>22. 7.63 – 23. 9.66  24. 9.66 – 6. 7.70  7. 7.70 – 25. 3.81  26. 3.81 until now</p>
SELANGOR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dato' Hamzah bin Abdullah</li> <li>2. Raja Tun Uda Alhaj bin Raja Mohamad</li> <li>3. Dato' Othman bin Mohamed</li> <li>4. Encik Abd. Aziz bin Abd. Majid (later Tun)</li> <li>5. Encik Abdul Jamil bin Abdul Rais (later Dato')</li> <li>6. Dato' Abu Bakar bin Baginda</li> <li>7. Dato' Haji Harun bin Idris</li> <li>8. Dato' Haji Hormat bin Rafei</li> <li>9. Dato' Haji Ahmad Razali bin Haji Mohd. Ali</li> <li>10. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhammad bin Haji Mohd. Taib</li> </ol>	<p>1949  1949 – 1953 and  1954 – 1955  1953  1955 – 1956  1958 – 1959  1959 – 1964  1964 – 1976  1976 – 1982  1982 – 1986  1986 – until now</p>
TERENGGANU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dato' Perdana Menteri Diraja, Dato' Seri Setia Diraja Haji Kamarudin bin Haji Idris</li> <li>2. Encik Mohd. Daud bin Abdul Samad (later Dato')</li> <li>3. Tan Sri Dato' Ibrahim Fikri bin Mohamad</li> <li>4. Dato' Mahmood bin Sulaiman</li> <li>5. Dato' Haji Nik Hassan bin Haji Wan Abdul Rahman</li> <li>6. Dato' Seri Amar Diraja, Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar bin Ahmad</li> </ol>	<p>27.12.49 – 28. 6.59  29. 6.59 – 6.11.61  9.11.61 – 30. 9.70  1.10.70 – 4. 9.71  5. 9.71 – 31. 8.74  1. 9.74 until now</p>

*Advisors to  
H.M. Yang di-Pertuan  
Agong,  
Their Royal  
Highnesses the Rulers  
&  
H.E. Yang di-Pertua-  
Yang di Pertua  
Negeri*



## Y.A.B. DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Johor), D.U.K., S.S.D.K., S.S.A.P., S.P.M.S.,  
S.P.M.J., D.P. (Sarawak), D.U.P.N., S.P.N.S., S.P.D.K., S.P.C.M., S.S.M.T., D.U.N.M., P.I.S.

### PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA



*Y*.A.B. Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir was born in Alor Star, Kedah on 20 December 1925. He received his early education at the Malay School, Seberang Perai, and later continued his secondary education at the Sultan Abdul Hamid College, Alor Star.

In 1947, Dr. Mahathir pursued his education in medicine at the King Edward VII College of Medicine, which later became part of the University of Malaya, Singapore. He graduated in 1952 with a degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS). Among his classmates was Siti Hasmah binti Mohd. Ali who also graduated as a doctor. They were married on 5 August 1952 and are blessed with seven children, four boys and three girls.

Upon graduation, Dr. Mahathir spent his housemanship at the General Hospital, Pulau Pinang, and was appointed Medical Officer, General Hospital, Alor Star; and at District Hospital, Langkawi, Jitra and Perlis. In 1957, together with Dr. Siti Hasmah, Dr. Mahathir opened a private clinic, MAHA CLINIC, at Alor Star, and became the first Malay doctor to open up a private clinic in Kedah.

The unstable political environment during the colonial days in the then Federation of Malaya moulded Dr. Mahathir as a thinker. Poverty and backwardness of the masses during World War II and the Japanese occupation strengthened his desire and commitment to

be the champion of the cause. Even during his school days, he had the voice of a patriot.

Dr. Mahathir learnt through the hard way. The experience acquired through selling "goreng pisang" at Pekan Rabu Market in Alor Star at an early age taught him to be self-reliant, committed, dedicated. To him, hard work pays. Dr. Mahathir realized that political weakness will not bring about changes. His determination to free his motherland from colonial domination led him to participate in SABERKAS Youth Movement, and became active in politics. In 1945, he joined the Kedah Malay Youth Movement (Kesatuan Melayu Muda Kedah), and when UMNO was formed in 1946, he joined the party as one of the early pioneers.

In the 1964 General Election, Dr. Mahathir was selected to contest on an Alliance ticket and won the Parliamentary seat of Kota Setar Selatan. Luck was not with him when he lost the same seat in the 1969 General Election. After the 13 May 1969 incident, Dr. Mahathir was expelled from the party. However, when Tun Abdul Razak replaced Tunku Abdul Rahman as President of UMNO and as Prime Minister, he was readmitted into UMNO's fold in early 1972. He was appointed a Senator in 1973, and in the 1974 General Election, he contested and won unopposed the Kubang Pasu Parliamentary seat. On 6 October 1974, Dr. Mahathir was appointed Minister of Education.

When Tun Abdul Razak passed away in 1975 and Dato' Hussein Onn took over the Premiership, he appointed Dr. Mahathir as Deputy Prime Minister, besides holding his Education portfolio. Dr. Mahathir was then one of the three UMNO Vice-Presidents.

On 16 July 1981, Dr. Mahathir was appointed the Fourth Prime Minister replacing Dato' Hussein Onn, who resigned on account of ill-health. The following year, he won the UMNO Presidency in the UMNO General Assembly. Since the 1982 General Election, he successively won the Parliamentary seat of Kubang Pasu.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir is a pragmatist, action-oriented, global-minded and a man of vision. If he thinks it is good for the country, he will attempt to put his views through tirelessly, in spite of criticism and opposition. He dares to face the risk, and has the wisdom in anticipation. His ability to bring the nation to what it is today is something to be proud of. His development-oriented vision coupled with positive characteristics and charismatic leadership qualities in-built in him enabled him to be placed at par with other world leaders. Dr. Mahathir is vocal. If he thinks he is right, he dares to speak with openness in a loud clear voice on any issues, though sensitive, in any international forum such as United Nations, OIC, NAM, APEC and ASEAN. The result: his voice is heard and he earns respect from other world leaders.

He often criticises big superpowers, such as the United States of America, Great Britain and Russia on injustices practised on developing nations and the Third World. Other western nations are not spared. Dr. Mahathir has been acknowledged as a world's statesman because of his ability to create ideas, raise issues, make people realise various contemporary problems, covering wide areas of concern. He is also able to offer pragmatic and concrete solutions.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir was able to show the world that Malaysia, although small, has the capacity to confront big powers if injustice is the Agenda of the day. "Buy British Last" policy and boycotting British corporate giants as a result of blatant accusation of the British media that Malaysian leaders are corrupt have earned us respect. Dr. Mahathir was also able to tame superpowers like the U.S., Australia and Western countries on their bullying attitudes towards smaller nations which at times caused "not only ripples but storm".

As a medical doctor, Dr. Mahathir looks at Malaysia and the world as having a lot of sickness. His approach to the problem is through the eyes of a medical doctor. He firmly believes that for every illness there is cure; and for every problem there is a solution. He acts by curing the illness, and not just by making comments.

He is able to put fire into Malay nationalism and make Malaysians proud that they are Malaysians, proud of the nation's success at the international level.

Dr. Mahathir attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as the Prime Minister who is the advisor to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

## Y.A.B. DATO' SERI SHAHIDAN BIN KASSIM

S.P.M.P., A.M.P.

### MENTERI BESAR OF PERLIS



**Y**.A.B. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim was born in Tambun Tulang, Perlis on 17 June 1951. He received his early education at the Sekolah Kebangsaan Tambun Tulang, Kangar, then later continued his education at the Sultan Abdul Halim Secondary School, Jitra, Kedah. On completing his secondary education, he successfully pursued his tertiary education at the University of Malaya and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Arts with Honours in Economics and History in 1973. Later, he obtained a Master's Degree in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies, Holland.

Dato' Seri is married to Y.A.Bhg. Datin Seri Shamsiah binti M. Yassin, and they are blessed with five children.

Dato' Seri joined politics during his university days. From a committee member, he rose up to become Arau

UMNO Divisional Head; Member of UMNO Supreme Council, and finally Chairman of Liaison Committee of Perlis UMNO.

He was elected as a Member of Parliament for Arau in 1986 and was elected as Chairman of Backbenchers' Club.

He was also appointed as Chairman of FAMA; Vice President of Perlis Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia; Deputy President of Persatuan Rekreasi Malaysia; and Deputy Chairman of MARA Education Foundation. At present he is the President of Malaysian Swimming Association; Deputy President of Malaysian Chess Federation; Chairman of PEMADAM, Perlis; and Chairman of various recreational clubs in Perlis.

He was appointed as Menteri Besar Perlis on 6 May 1995.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH the Raja of Perlis.

## Y.A.B. TAN SRI DATO' SERI SANUSI BIN JUNID

S.M.K., D.S.D.K., D.G.S.M.

### MENTERI BESAR OF KEDAH



*Y*.A.B. Dato' Seri Sanusi Junid was born on 10 July 1943 in Yan, Kedah. He received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Yan, Sungai Petani and the Malay College Kuala Kangsar. He later pursued his tertiary education in Accountancy and Management in London.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, he attended courses organized by the Chartered Bank in London and Hamburg, and followed German language course in Berlitz School of Languages in Germany. He was later appointed as Senior Manager, Chartered Bank, Seremban. In 1963, at 20 years old, he joined UMNO, and was elected to Parliament in 1974 representing the Jerai Constituency. He represented the Jerlun-Langkawi Parliamentary seat from 1978 until 1995. He was appointed Deputy Minister of Land and Regional Development (1978 - 1980) and Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (1980 - 1982). After the 1982 General Election, he was appointed Minister of National and Rural Development (1982 - 1986). Later, he was appointed Minister of Agriculture (1986 - 1995).

Dato' Seri Sanusi is well known for his vision and innovation, creativity and novelty. He had introduced all sorts of ideas to uplift the standard of living of rural folks. He was responsible for many pioneering projects in agriculture such as deep-sea fishing, local dairy products, and the promotion of young coconuts.

In politics, he had served as UMNO Secretary-General, and as one of the three Vice-Presidents of UMNO. In the 1995 General Election, he won the Kuala state constituency, and was appointed Menteri Besar of Kedah on 16 June 1996. Besides politics, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Sanusi is also a prolific writer. Among his writings are *Semoga Tempayan Tidak Pecah, Biar Rugi Beribu Juta untuk Menebus Bangsa* (1984) and *Antara Dua Ramadan* (1988). A linguist, Tan Sri Dato' Seri can speak Tamil and German besides Malay and English.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri married Y.A.Bhg. Datin Seri Nila Inangda Manyam Keumala binti Hasballah Daod, an architect, and they are blessed with seven children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH the Sultan of Kedah.

## Y.A.B. TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHAMMAD BIN HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB

P.S.M., S.P.M.S., D.G.S.M., D.P.M.S, S.S.A, A.M.N., P.J.K.

### MENTERI BESAR OF SELANGOR



*Y*.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhammad bin Haji Muhammad Taib, was born on 29 June 1945 at Kampung Sungai Manggis, Kuala Kalumpang, Hulu Selangor. After completing his English secondary education in 1964, he joined the Day Training Teachers' College in Kuala Lumpur. His first posting was Sekolah Kebangsaan Felda Gedangsa, Hulu Selangor.

In 1976, Tan Sri continued his education at the University of Malaya majoring in History and Malay Studies, obtaining a First Class Honours. After completing his studies, he resumed teaching at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kuala Kubu Baru. In 1980, he was appointed as Assistant Director, Planning and Research Division, Ministry of Education.

He began his political career in 1964 at a young age. He became active in 1980 when he was elected as Hulu Selangor UMNO Youth Leader. In 1981, he was appointed as a Special Assistant to the then Deputy

Minister of Education, Dato' Haji Suhaimi Kamaruddin. In the 1982 General Election, he was elected as a State Assemblyman for Batang Kali. He again won the seat in 1986, and was appointed Menteri Besar on 13 August 1986.

In the 1993 UMNO General Assembly, Tan Sri was elected as one of the three Vice-Presidents of UMNO. He is known for his oratory skill. Under his stewardship for a decade, Selangor, being close to the Federal Capital, became a Metropolitan city-state, witnessed a doubling of income-brackets and the per-capita income was doubled. He is known for his vision and pragmatism. He is trying to champion the "New Malay".

He is married to Y.A.Bhg. Puan Seri Datin Asbi binti Asnan, and they are blessed with four children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH the Sultan of Selangor.

## Y.A.B. TAN SRI DATO' SERI MOHD. KHALIL BIN YAAKOB

P.S.M, S.S.A.P., S.I.M.P., P.S.M., D.S.A.P., J.S.M., S.M.P.

### MENTERI BESAR OF PAHANG



*Y*.A.B. Tan Sri Haji Mohd. Khalil bin Yaakob was born on 29 December 1938 in Kuantan, Pahang. After completing his early education, he joined the Malay College Kuala Kangsar and continued his tertiary education at the University of Malaya and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Arts with Honours. Upon graduation, he joined the Malaysian Civil Service and served with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was posted to Italy, Morocco, Singapore and Indonesia. From Wisma Putra, he moved to the Jengka Development Authority (Jengka) as General Manager and later as Chairman of the Board.

He joined UMNO while still in the service and became Divisional Head for Pekan. He became active in politics in 1978 when he contested the Ibam State

constituency. In the 1982 General Election, he contested the Maran Parliamentary constituency and was appointed Deputy Minister of Education and later as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. In 1986, he contested the State seat of Bukit Tajau and was appointed Menteri Besar of Pahang on 14 August 1986. He was appointed as Chairman of Pahang State UMNO Liaison Committee in 1986, and also as Chairman of Barisan Nasional, Pahang in the same year.

He married Y.A.Bhg. Puan Sri Datin Seri Zurina binti Kassim and they are blessed with three children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH the Sultan of Pahang.

## Y.A.B. TUAN GURU DATO' HAJI NIK ABDUL AZIZ BIN NIK MAT

S.J.M.K., K.M.N., J.P.

### MENTERI BESAR OF KELANTAN



*Y*.A.B. Tuan Guru Dato' Haji Nik Abdul Aziz bin Nik Mat was born in Kelantan in 1931. He started his education in Malay and Arabic. Upon completing his secondary education, he continued his studies at Deoband (Darul Ulum), India and obtained a Master's Degree in Arts (M.A.) in Islamic Law and Judiciary from Al-Azhar University in Cairo.

Before venturing into full-time politics, he served as a religious teacher at Ma'ahad Muhammadi, Kota Bharu and also as free-lance preacher. He became active in politics in 1967, and in successive General Elections since 1969, he has won the State Legislative Assembly seat of Semut Api. He retained the seat in 1990, and when PAS captured Kelantan, he was sworn-in as the

Menteri Besar of Kelantan on 23 October 1990.

He is the PAS State Commissioner, and the Chairman of the National PAS Religious Council (Dewan Ulama'). A simple man, he is popularly known among both village and townfolks alike as "Tuan Guru", and he never stopped giving weekly Friday sermons since 1969 until 1978, and since 1990 until now.

Y.A.B. Tuan Guru married Y.A.Bhg. Datin Hajah Tuan Sabariah binti Tuan Ishak and they are blessed with 10 children, five boys and five girls.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH Al-Sultan of Kelantan.

**Y.A.B. TAN SRI DATO' SERI AMAR DIRAJA  
HAJI WAN MOKHTAR BIN AHMAD**  
P.S.M., S.S.M.T., S.P.M.T, D.P.M.J, D.A., K.M.N., P.J.K., J.P.

**MENTERI BESAR OF TERENGGANU**



*Y*.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ammar Diraja Haji Wan Mokhtar was born on 21 March 1932 at Kampung Nisan Empat, Kuala Terengganu. He received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Paya Bunga, Kuala Terengganu. Later he joined Sekolah Sultan Zainal Abidin. After completing his secondary education, he continued his studies at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, where he obtained a Bachelors' and a Masters' Degree.

On his return from Cairo, he served as a teacher at the Sekolah Sultan Zainal Abidin in 1963. After a year's service as a teacher, he became involved in politics. He contested and won Kemaman Parliamentary Constituency for two terms in 1964 and 1968. In 1974,

he contested the State Legislative Assembly seat and won the Chukai constituency and was appointed as the Eighth Menteri Besar on 1 September 1974. Since 1978, he retained the Chukai seat for six consecutive terms.

His achievement made him a "Doyen Menteri-Menteri Besar, Ketua-Ketua Menteri", having served in the post for 23 years.

Tan Sri married Y.A.Bhg. Puan Sri Dato' To' Puan Seri Hajah Aishahtun binti Mohd. Fadlullah Suheimi and they are blessed with five children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH the Sultan of Terengganu.



## Y.A.B. DATO' HAJI ABDUL GHANI BIN OTHMAN

D.K. (Johor), S.M.J.

### MENTERI BESAR OF JOHOR



*Y*.A.B. Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani bin Othman was born on 14 November 1946 and obtained a Bachelor of Economics Degree with Honours from La Trobe University, Australia and later he continued his post-graduate studies at the University of Queensland where he obtained a Masters Degree in Political Economy. Upon his return from overseas, he served as a lecturer and later was promoted to the Deanship of the Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya.

He has been actively engaged in politics since 1980's. He was elected as Divisional Head of Ledang in 1984 and was appointed Senator. In the 1986 General Election, he contested and won the Ledang Parliamentary Constituency. In 1987, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Posts. After the 1990 General Election, which he again

won, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Finance. In 1993, he was promoted to full Ministership holding the portfolio of Youth and Sports. In the 1995 General Election, he contested and won the State Legislative Assembly constituency of Serom and was appointed Menteri Besar of Johor on 3 May 1995.

He is also the Chairman of the Education Bureau, UMNO Malaysia and President of the Federal Territory and Selangor Johor Malay Association. He was appointed Chairman of the State UMNO Liaison Committee and also as Chairman, Barisan Nasional Johor.

He is married to Y.A.Bhg. Professor Datin Dr. Jamilah binti Ariffin and they are blessed with two children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH the Sultan of Johor.

## Y.A.B. TAN SRI DATO' SERI HAJI RAMLI BIN NGAH TALIB

P.S.M., S.P.C.M., A.M.N., J.P. (Orang Kaya-kaya Seri Agar Diraja)

### MENTERI BESAR OF PERAK



*Y*.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Ramli bin Nгах Talib was born on 16 March 1941 at Kampung Pasir Salak, Perak. He received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Pasir Salak and later continued his education at the Anglo Chinese School, Teluk Intan and thereafter at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar. He continued his tertiary education at the University of Malaya in the Faculty of Arts and later pursued his law studies at the Queens University, Ireland. He obtained his LL.B (Hons.) and was also admitted as a Barrister-at-Law at the Lincoln's Inn, London in 1970.

A lawyer by profession, Tan Sri took up teaching when he taught law at the Institut Teknologi Mara (ITM). After a stint at ITM, he moved to the National Electricity Board (LLN) as Legal Advisor serving from 1971 to 1977. So as to keep in touch with the teaching of law, he did part-time teaching in the Law Faculty,

University of Malaya. In 1978, he left LLN and set up his own firm.

He has been involved in politics since the early 1970s. He held the post of Vice-Chairman of Kampung Teluk Branch and later was elected as a Chairman of the same branch. In 1978, he was elected as Divisional Head. In 1978, he was selected as a candidate to contest the State Legislative Assembly Seat of Kampung Gajah and won. He was appointed as a Senior Member of the Executive Council.

On 1 March 1983, he was appointed Menteri Besar of Perak. He was also appointed as Chairman of State Liaison Committee of UMNO and Chairman, Barisan Nasional Perak.

He is married to Y.A.Bhg. Puan Sri Datin Seri Raja Noora Ashikin binti Raja Abdullah and they are blessed with four children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying the HRH Paduka Seri Sultan of Perak.

**Y.A.B. TAN SRI DATO' SERI UTAMA HAJI MOHD. ISA  
BIN DATO' HAJI ABDUL SAMAD**  
P.S.M., S.P.N.S., D.S.N.S., P.M.C.

**MENTERI BESAR OF NEGERI SEMBILAN**



*Y*.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Haji Abdul Samad was born on 14 November 1949 at Tangga Batu, Melaka and later moved to Port Dickson together with his family.

He received his early education at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sirusa, Port Dickson, followed by secondary school education at Sekolah Menengah Port Dickson. Later he continued his education at Sekolah Menengah Alam Shah, Kuala Lumpur until Form Six. Upon completing his secondary education, he pursued his tertiary education at the University of Malaya and successfully obtained a Degree of Bachelor of Arts with honours. Upon graduation, he was appointed as a teacher.

He has been involved in politics since the early 70's. In 1978, he contested in the General Election and won the State Legislative Assembly Constituency of Linggi. Following that, he was appointed as a Senior Member of the State Executive Council. On 29 April 1982, after having won the General Election for the same Constituency, he was elected as the Fourth Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan and has been serving in that capacity until today.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohd. Isa is married to Y.A.Bhg. Puan Seri Datin Seri Utama Hajah Hazizah binti Haji Tumin and they are blessed with four children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Menteri Besar, accompanying HRH the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan.

# Y.A.B. DATUK SERI HAJI MOHD. ZIN BIN HAJI ABDUL GHANI

D.G.S.M., D.M.S.M., P.G.D.K., D.S.M., A.M.N., B.K.T., P.P.N.

## CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA



*Y*.A.B. Datuk Seri Haji Mohd. Zin bin Haji Abdul Ghani was born on 12 October 1941 at Kampung Melekek Luar, Alor Gajah, Melaka.

He started his education at Sekolah Melayu Melekek, Alor Gajah until standard seven. On 1 May 1957, at the age of 16, he was appointed trainee teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Air Pa'abas in 1961. In 1966, Datuk Seri took his SPM examinations and passed with flying colours. In 1982, he was transferred to Sekolah Kebangsaan Air Pa'abas as Headmaster until he was given the mandate to represent the Constituency as Wakil Rakyat for the State Constituency of Melekek in the Melaka State Legislative Assembly.

He began his political career by joining UMNO Melekek in 1959 and in 1972, he was given the opportunity to head the UMNO Melekek Branch. In 1978, he was elected as Vice Youth Head and later as Deputy Youth Head, Alor Gajah Division. He has won the same Constituency since 1978. Datuk Seri was appointed Chief Minister of Melaka on 14 October 1994. He was also elected as the Divisional Head of the Alor Gajah UMNO and was appointed Chairman of State UMNO Liaison Committee and Chairman of State Barisan Nasional.

He married Y.A.Bhg. Datin Seri Fatimah binti Samdin and they are blessed with 11 children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Chief Minister accompanying HE the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka.

## Y.A.B. TAN SRI DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB BIN MAHMUD

P.S.M., S.F.M.J., S.S.D.K., S.S.A.P., S.S.S.A., D.G.S.M., D.P., P.G.D.K.

### CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK



*Y*.A.B. Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud was born on 21 May 1936 in Miri, Sarawak. He received his early education at St. George's School, Miri and St. Joseph's Institution, Kuching. Later he continued his education at the University of Adelaide, Australia and obtained a Bachelor of Law's Degree (LL.B.) in 1960.

Upon his return, he was appointed Crown Counsel (1962 - 1963) and a member of the State Legislative Council in 1968. Tan Sri has served the nation in both as a Federal Minister and a State Minister. At the state level, he had served as Minister of Communications and Public Works and Minister of Lands and Mines. At the Federal Level, he served as the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (1968 - 1970), Deputy Minister of Works, Telecommunications and Posts (1970 - 1972), Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Minister of Light Industries, Minister of Planning and Socio-Economic Research, Minister of Defence (1978), and Minister of Information (1979).

He has served as Secretary-General of Parti Pesaka Bumiputra (1965 - 1972), Vice-President of Parti Bumiputra Sarawak and Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu (1972 - 1973). He is now the President of Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu and also the Chairman of Barisan National Sarawak. He was appointed as President of REISEP in 1988 and President of PERKIM in 1989. He was also appointed as Vice-President of Sarawak Scout Council, Pro-Chancellor of UNIMAS (1 July 1995). He was awarded the Honorary Degree of the University of Adelaide on 29 May 1994.

In February 1981, he retired from the Federal Cabinet and was appointed Minister of Lands and Mines before being appointed as the Chief Minister of Sarawak on 26 March 1981.

He is married to Y.A.Bhg. Puan Sri Datuk Amar Dr. Hajah Leila Taib and they are blessed with four children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Chief Minister, accompanying HE the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak.

## Y.A.B. TAN SRI DR. KOH TSU KOON

P.S.M.

### CHIEF MINISTER OF PULAU PINANG

*Y*

A.B. Tan Sri Dr. Koh  
Tsu Koon was first  
elected as a State

A s s e m b l y m a n  
and the Chief Minister of

the state of Pulau Pinang in the General  
Election in October 1990. He was re-elected to  
his second term in April 1995. Born in Pulau  
Pinang in 1949, he is Pulau Pinang's third Chief  
Minister since Independence in 1957.

Tan Sri Dr. Koh started his political career in 1982  
with his election to the Malaysian Parliament. He then  
served as the Political Secretary to the former Chief  
Minister of Pulau Pinang from 1986 to 1990. Since 1991,  
he is a National Vice-President of the Gerakan Party and  
since 1996, elected as Gerakan's Pulau Pinang State  
Liaison Chairman.

Prior to entering politics, Y.A.B. Dr. Koh was a  
lecturer and the Deputy Dean of the School of  
Education in Universiti Sains Malaysia in Pulau Pinang  
from 1975 to 1982. He graduated from Princeton  
University, USA, in 1970 with a degree in Physics, and



obtained his Ph.D. from the  
University of Chicago in 1977 in  
Economics and Sociology of  
Education. He was also a Fulbright  
Fellow at Stanford University and the  
East-West Centre in Hawaii in 1981.

As Chief Minister, Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dr. Koh  
is the Chairman of the Pulau Pinang Development  
Corporation, which is the development agency of the  
State Government responsible for the promotion of  
Pulau Pinang manufacturing and tourism sectors,  
urbanization as well as human resource development  
programmes. He also chairs the Pulau Pinang Economic  
Consultation Council, Pulau Pinang Industrial Council,  
the Pulau Pinang State Planning Committee and the  
Pulau Pinang State Investment Trust Fund.

Y.A.B. Tan Sri is married to Y.A.Bhg. Puan Sri Chui  
Kan Peng and they are blessed with a son, Yu Cheng,  
and a daughter, Yu Jun.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity  
as Chief Minister, accompanying HE the Yang di-Pertua  
Negeri of Pulau Pinang.

## Y.A.B. DATUK YONG TECK LEE

P.G.D.K., P.J.N.

### CHIEF MINISTER OF SABAH



*Y*.A.B. Datuk Yong Teck Lee was born on 3 October 1958 in Sabah. He started his early education in Sabah and later went to London to study his Law Degree and successfully obtained an LL.B. (Hons.) from the University of London. He was then admitted as a Barrister-at-Law, Lincoln's Inn, London in 1983.

A lawyer by profession, he pursued his career in Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan between 1984 - 1985. In the April 1985 General Election, he was elected as a member of the State Legislative Assembly in the constituency of Likas.

He was then appointed as Assistant Minister of Local Government and Housing, Sabah. From January 1988 till July 1990, he was appointed as Assistant

Minister of Finance, from July 1990 as Deputy Chief Minister in the portfolio of Industrial Development (July 1990 - January 1994), Local Government (March 1994 - November 1995) and Finance (November 1995 -

27 May 1996). On 28 May 1996, he was sworn in as Chief Minister of Sabah on a rotation basis taking over from Y.A.B. Datuk Salleh Said Keruak. He is also involved in various voluntary and welfare organizations, religious, and other activities.

Y.A.B. Datuk Yong Teck Lee married Y.A.Bhg. Datin Kong Yin Kiun and they are blessed with four children.

He attends the Conference of Rulers in his capacity as Chief Minister, accompanying HE the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah.

## Y.T.M. TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA ALHAJ

### THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

31 AUGUST 1957 - 21 SEPTEMBER 1970



**Y**.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj was born in Alor Star, Kedah, on 8 February 1903, the seventh son of the Ruler of Kedah, HRH Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah. His mother was Che Manjelara.

After receiving his early education in a Malay and English School in Alor Star, Y.T.M. Tunku was sent to a Siamese school in Bangkok. In 1920, a State scholarship took him to England for higher education. He entered St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, and read history and law. He graduated in 1925 with a B. A. Degree. He then joined the Inner Temple, in London, but his studies were interrupted.

In 1931, he returned to Kedah, and joined the Kedah State Civil Service. He served as District Officer in Kuala Nerang, then Langkawi, Sungai Patani, and finally in Kulim.

In 1948, Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman became Chairman of UMNO Kedah. He returned to London to complete his law studies and was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple. On his return to Malaya in 1949 he was appointed as a Deputy Public Prosecutor. In 1951, he succeeded Dato Sir Onn bin Ja'afar as President of the United Malays National Organisation. On 27 July 1955, the Federation's first elections to the Federal Legislative Council were held. The Alliance swept through the polls, winning 51 out of 52 seats. In the new Government Tunku Abdul Rahman became Chief Minister.

On 31 December 1955, Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman headed a delegation from the Alliance, to London for talks with the British Government on the future constitution of the Federation. On 31 August 1957, Malaya became independent and Tunku Abdul

Rahman became her first Prime Minister. On 21 August 1959, Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman became Prime Minister for the second time. On 6 June 1960, Cambridge University conferred on Tunku Abdul Rahman an honorary Doctorate of Laws. The Tunku had already been honoured with the same degree by the University of Malaya; the University of Sydney; Arenalta University in the Philippines; University of Saigon in 1961; Aligarh Muslim University in India in 1962 and Seoul National University of Korea in 1965.

In 1961, the Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) was formed during his tenure as Prime Minister. Tunku visited London in November for talks with the British Government which resulted in agreement to go ahead with the Malaysia concept and to appoint a special commission to enquire into public opinion in Sabah and Sarawak.

In 1962, Tunku was honoured by being named as the first Chancellor of the newly formed University of Malaya. Tunku visited London in July for further discussions on Malaysia which resulted in the decision to establish the new nation on or before 31 August 1963.

A keen sportsman, Tunku had been a football fan all his life. He was President of the Football Association of Malaya, President of the Asian Football Confederation, and President of the Asian Badminton Confederation. His other personal interests include golf, sailing and photography. In addition, he was the owner of a remarkable collection of Malay weapons, especially the kris.

The Tunku passed away in the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital at the age of 87. He was laid to rest at the Royal Mausoleum, Langgar, Kedah on 7 December 1990.



## Y.A.B. TUN ABDUL RAZAK BIN HUSSAIN

S.M.N.

### THE SECOND PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

22 SEPTEMBER 1970 - 13 JANUARY 1976



**Y**.A.B. Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussain was born on 11 March 1922 in Pekan, Pahang. He was married to Y.A.Bhg. Toh Puan Rahah and they were blessed with four children, all boys. Tun Abdul Razak was educated at Malay School Langgar, Pekan, Malay College Kuala Kangsar, Raffles College, Singapore, and Lincoln's Inn, London. He passed the Bar Final Examinations in April 1949. Then he joined the Malay Administrative Service in 1949. He was appointed to the Malayan Civil Service in 1949 and was State Secretary of Pahang in 1952 and Menteri Besar of Pahang in 1955.

When in England, he was an active member of student bodies. He was the Secretary of the Malay Society of Britain and later became its President. Tun Abdul Razak had always taken an active part in politics. He was elected leader of the UMNO Youth Movement, and became one of its Vice - Presidents, and in 1951 was elected Deputy President of UMNO. After the formation of the Alliance Party, he was elected its Deputy Chairman.

In April 1954, he joined the Alliance delegation to London. In June 1955, he resigned from the Government service in order to contest for the Federal elections. He was appointed Minister of Education in August 1955.

He was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in September 1957, soon after Independence. He was honoured by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong with the order of Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara which carries the title of Tun.

Tun Razak had also been the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He represented Malaysia at various International Conferences, notably the Tripartite Talks

(Malaya, Indonesia and Philippines) in Manila, Bangkok and Tokyo in 1963 and 1964. He led a goodwill mission to North Africa in 1964, and East Africa and Burma in 1965. He also represented Malaysia at various Colombo Plan and other International Economic Development Conferences. He headed the Malaysia delegation to Bangkok for discussion with the Indonesia Foreign Minister to Kuala Lumpur, ending the state of Confrontation with Indonesia.

Tun Razak was President of Malaysia's Olympic Council and President of the 3rd SEAP Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1965. He was a good sportsman during his college days, and a keen golf player.

In May 1969, following the General Election and subsequent disturbances of 13 May, Tun Razak was appointed Director of Operations under Proclamation of Emergency for 22 months until Emergency was lifted and Parliament resumed on 22 February 1971. In addition to being Director of Operations, Tun Razak held the portfolios of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance in the Emergency Cabinet. On 22 September 1970, he took over as Prime Minister upon the retirement of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj.

Tun Razak was the "Organisation Man". He expanded the ruling coalition (Alliance) to include various opposition parties. This resulted in the formation of the National Front or Barisan Nasional - a coalition front that has enjoyed uninterrupted success at the polls since the first electoral success at the 1974 General Election. Tun Abdul Razak died in office in London on 14 January 1976 at the age of 54. His remains were buried at the Heroes Mausoleum, in the compound of the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur.

## Y.A.B. TUN HUSSEIN BIN DATO' ONN

S.M.N., S.F.M.J.

### THE THIRD PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

14 JANUARY 1976 - 15 JULY 1981



**Y**.A.B. Tun Hussein Onn was born in Johor Bahru on 22 February 1922. He was the eldest son of Dato' Onn Jaafar, the Menteri Besar of Johor and first President of UMNO, and Datin Halimah. He received his early education in Singapore, and later at the English College, Johor Bahru. He began his career as a Cadet Officer in Johor Military Force. In 1941, he was sent for military training at the Military Academy in Dehra Dun, India, and was commissioned in 1942.

He had served in the Middle East and the New Delhi Military College. He was promoted to the rank of Captain and had served as an Instructor at the Malayan Police Training Centre at Rawalpindi, India. In August 1945, he returned to Malaya and was appointed Commandant of the Police Depot, Johor Bahru. Later he served in the Malay Administrative Service and was appointed Assistant District Officer, Segamat.

When Dato' Onn Jaafar formed UMNO, he resigned from the service to devote his time fully to UMNO. In 1946, he was appointed as the first Head of the UMNO Youth Movement, and also as Secretary-General of UMNO. He served as a member of the Johor State Executive Council and a member of the Federal Legislative Council. In 1948, he pursued his law studies at Lincoln's Inn, London, and practised law upon his return for five years.

In 1970, he contested and won the Parliamentary constituency of Johor Bahru Timur and was subsequently appointed Minister of Education in the Tun Abdul Razak Cabinet. In 1972, he was elected as a Vice - President of UMNO. On 13 August 1973, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister, succeeding Tun Dr. Ismail who passed away.

After Tun Abdul Razak passed away in London on

14 January 1976, Tun Hussein was appointed Prime Minister. On account of ill-health, however, he decided to relinquish the post of Premiership to his Deputy, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on 15 July 1981. The following day, Dato Seri was sworn in as the Prime Minister.

Tun Hussein Onn contributed a great deal towards the betterment of the bumiputera community during his term of office as Prime Minister. The new Economic Policy was given a fresh impetus under his able direction. He is best remembered for having introduced a scheme designed to transfer millions of dollars worth of government-owned shares to a specially modified giant National Unit Trust (Amanah Saham Nasional) controlled by the National Equity Corporation (Permodalan Nasional Bhd. or PNB). The Trust allowed bumiputeras to invest in the shares. Flushed with funds from the millions of units sold to bumiputeras, the PNB then became the major means by which the government sought to purchase a controlling interest in other foreign companies.

On 8 June, the then retired Prime Minister was given the honour of launching the Tun Hussein Onn Eye Hospital, and in May 1983, was appointed President of the International Islamic University. On 22 February 1983, he was appointed Advisor to Petronas. He was appointed Chairman of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) on 9 June 1983.

He passed away at the age of 68 on 29 May 1990 at the Seaton Medical Centre, San Francisco, United States, six weeks after he underwent a coronary by-pass operation. His remains were buried at the Heroes Mausoleum, in the compound of the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur.

# B Y INVITATION

**B**riefings are very important in any meeting. It gives a bird's-eye view on matters to be discussed at a meeting. It also facilitates the understanding of the problems to be discussed. A face-to-face briefing will provide a channel of communication between parties. Moreover, reports are often difficult to comprehend. They are one-way communications. So, besides submitting a written report, the author is often called upon to give a briefing, so that a two-way communication channel is established, to enable questions to be answered speedily.

## WHO ARE INVITED?

The list of officials who are invited to brief the Conference is very flexible, depending upon the subject-matter to be briefed. The following officials are often invited to give briefings:

### 1. The Chief of the Armed Forces

The Chief of the Armed Forces is invited to give briefings regarding security to the Conference. It has been established that briefings on security started way back in 1970 after the 1969 incident. It has now become a fixed agenda.

### 2. The Inspector-General of Police

The Inspector-General of Police is invited to give briefings on the maintenance of law and order in the country. The Inspector-General of Police may be called up to give briefings on any instances that may come within the purview of the Police Act and the Police Force.

### 3. The Attorney-General

The Attorney-General is invited to give a briefing on matters relating to the law, particularly the Constitution.

**4. The Director-General, Economic Planning Unit (EPU)**

Economic planning is vital to the development of the nation. Every year, the EPU is assigned the task of preparing the Annual Economic Report to be presented to the Parliament. Again, every five years, the EPU is given the task of preparing the Malaysia Plans.

As the persons in whom executive authority is vested, the Rulers should have the privilege of getting first-hand information about the Reports and the Plans. As such, the Director-General of EPU of the Prime Minister's Department is invited to give briefings to the Conference of Rulers on the Economic Report and the Malaysia Plans.

**5. The Director-General of the Islamic Affairs Division,  
Prime Minister's Department**

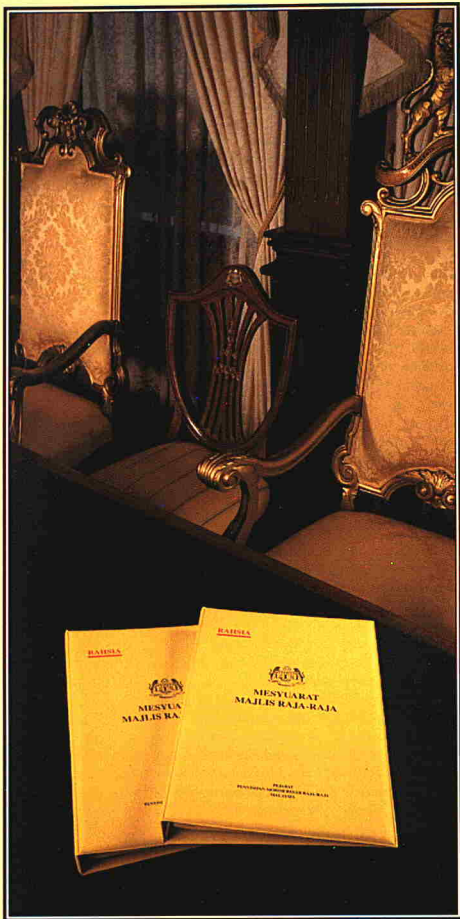
Matters relating to Islam are discussed at the Meetings of the Conference, because as Heads of religion the Rulers should know the current situation in the country. Furthermore, Article 38 (6) (d) provides that the members of the Conference of Rulers may act in their discretion in any proceedings relating to –

*"(d) the agreeing or disagreeing to the extension of any religious acts, observances or ceremonies to the Federation as a whole"*

For this purpose, the Director-General of Islamic Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department is invited to give briefings on matters relating to Islam and Syariah. A case in point is when the Government decided to ban the Al-Arqam Movement in 1994. The official in charge of Islamic Affairs was invited to give a briefing on the reasons for the ban.

**6. The Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Wisma Putra is charged with the responsibility for all matters relating to foreign affairs. Our relationship with other countries depends on how Wisma Putra handles our diplomatic relations. For this purpose, therefore, the Conference of Rulers should have the privilege of getting first-hand information on our foreign affairs. The Secretary-General is invited to give briefings on matters related to our diplomatic relations and international affairs.



The Yellow Book (Files, Agenda, Papers, Reports and Minutes of previous Conferences).

## 14 *The Yellow Book*

The term "Yellow Book" was used to describe the Files, Agenda, Papers, Reports and Minutes of the Conference. Since the formation of the reconstituted Conference of Rulers in 1948, various rules were made from time to time to facilitate the smooth running of the Meetings of the Conference. In 1988, new Rules were adopted encompassing all aspects of the Meeting. These Rules abrogate earlier Rules. These Rules regulate, *inter alia*, the agenda for a Meeting, the venue, and frequency of the Meetings, the attendance at a Meeting and the Chairmanship of Meeting. Matters not covered by the Rules may be decided upon by the majority (Rule 12).

If a Meeting is convened for the purpose of election or removal of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or his *Timbalan* as provided for under Section 7 of the Fifth Schedule to the Federal Constitution, the Yang di-Pertua Negeri is not a member in such proceedings, and Rule 11 prohibits the minutes of such a meeting from being despatched to the Yang di-Pertua Negeri for States not having a Ruler or to the Chief Ministers of those states.

In order to avoid confusion, a special meeting is normally called for the election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or to discuss matters connected with the privileges, honours and dignity of the Rulers. This Special Meeting is solely devoted to discussing such matters. Normally, only one item appears on the Agenda. Being a special meeting, minutes of the proceedings of such meeting can be kept separate from which the Yang di-Pertua Negeri is a member.

Since Merdeka, 16 Special Meetings were called, some to elect the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, and some to discuss the privileges of the Rulers themselves. Two such meetings were called in 1983 and 1993 respectively, to discuss amendments to the Federal Constitution.

### AGENDA

Rule 7 of the Rules of the Conference of Rulers requires the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, as Secretary to the Conference, to propose an agenda on matters to be considered in any Meeting of the Conference. He is required to circulate the agenda and all papers to be discussed to all the members with copies to Menteri-Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers, to reach them fourteen days before the date set for the Meeting of the Conference. The rationale is to give ample time to the members and their advisors to read through the papers and prepare themselves for the Meeting.

Papers for the Meeting which are received by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal after the agenda and the papers to be discussed have already been despatched may be considered at any Meeting of the Conference if agreed to by the Chairman of the particular Meeting. Rule 8 of the Rules gives some flexibility and allows such papers to be included at the discretion of the Chairman.

Rule 9 of the Rules requires that the draft of minutes of the Meeting be prepared as soon as possible and certified correct by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal (Secretary of the Conference) which shall be circulated to all the members for purposes of verification and certification.

The draft of minutes, together with corrections or amendments, if any, may be confirmed through correspondence or by any other means, by the members to the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.

Copies of the minutes must also be despatched to the Prime Minister, Menteri-Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers of all the States (Rule 9 (ii)).

## *Kuala Lumpur as the Seat of the Conference*

**K**uala Lumpur was the seat of administration of the Federated Malay States government after that federation was formed in 1896. In 1948, after the Federation of Malaya Agreement 1948, Kuala Lumpur became the seat of the Federal Government.

In 1957, the Federal Constitution specifically named the municipality of Kuala Lumpur as the Federal Capital. When Malaysia was formed in 1963, the status of Kuala Lumpur as the Federal Capital remained unchanged. The provision of the Federal Constitution declaring Kuala Lumpur as the Federal Capital is found in Article 154.

In 1972, Kuala Lumpur was enlarged and conferred city status. Soon after, negotiations were made between the Federal Government and the Government of the State of Selangor to create a Federal Capital Territory, with a separate identity and having its own jurisdiction, like Canberra, and Washington D.C. Both parties agreed and the Federal Constitution had to be amended in 1973 to carve out Kuala Lumpur from the State of Selangor.

### **KUALA LUMPUR AS THE SEAT OF THE CONFERENCE**

The seat of the Conference, and the venue of the Meetings of the Conference, is the Federal Capital of Kuala Lumpur as provided for under Rule 4 of the Rules of the Meetings of the Conference. The first meeting of the Conference was held on 18 February 1948. The third was however held in Johor Bahru at the request of the Sultan of Johor. Subsequent meetings were held in Kuala Lumpur. However, in 1975, on the proposal of His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor, Rule 4 was amended to enable the Meeting of the Conference to be held outside Kuala Lumpur once every year. Since then, nine Meetings were held outside Kuala Lumpur.

There are several reasons why Kuala Lumpur was chosen as the seat of the Conference and the venue of the Meetings of the Conference:

1. Kuala Lumpur is the Federal Capital of Malaysia (Article 154), and the seat of the Federal Government. It follows that the seat of the Conference and the venue of the Meeting should also be in Kuala Lumpur.
2. The Secretariat of the Conference is the Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, which is also located in Kuala Lumpur. The Istana Negara and the Parliament Building are the most suitable venues for the Meetings. There is no necessity to search for venues if the Meetings are held in Kuala Lumpur.
3. All Rulers have their own palaces in Kuala Lumpur and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri have their own State Houses in the Federal Capital.
4. Security is less problematic in Kuala Lumpur as the police has the experience and expertise required to deal with the security and traffic arrangements required for Meetings of the Conference.
5. The Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri will bear their own expenses from their respective State Civil Lists, and the Menteri-Menteri Besar and the Chief Ministers will bear their own expenses from their own State allocations.

As such, less expenses and preparations are required if the Meetings are to be held in Kuala Lumpur.

## MEETINGS OUTSIDE KUALA LUMPUR

Notwithstanding what had been stated on the merits of having the Meetings in Kuala Lumpur, meetings outside Kuala Lumpur also have their advantages. Among the advantages are:

1. The *rakyat* in the State chosen to host the Meeting will be able to see the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, nine Rulers, four Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri and 14 heads of Governments together assemble at one place in the State. It will be an occasion to look forward to, particularly since it may take place only once in 14 years.
2. The Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri have the opportunity of visiting interesting places in the State as a group. They need not make separate unindividual visits to do so.
3. A Meeting outside Kuala Lumpur will relieve the monotony of meeting in the same meeting room every time a meeting is held. By having a meeting outside Kuala Lumpur a different kind of atmosphere will prevail.

A meeting held outside Kuala Lumpur is the same as the meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, except that as visitors to the State playing host other activities are normally arranged for the Rulers, Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri, Prime Minister, Menteri-Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers.



Skyline of Kuala Lumpur.



The following states have been hosting past Meetings of the Conference of Rulers:

**State:** Pulau Pinang  
**Meeting:** 112th  
**Date:** 27 to 29 September 1978  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH the Raja of Perlis

The meeting was held at the then newly built Rasa Sayang Hotel in Pulau Pinang.

**State:** Sarawak  
**Meeting:** 116th  
**Date:** 3 to 4 October 1979  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan

The meeting was held at the then newly completed building of Council Negeri, now known as Dewan Undangan Negeri (State Legislative Assembly), Kuching.

**State:** Selangor  
**Meeting:** 122nd  
**Date:** 14 to 15 October 1981  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH the Sultan of Terengganu

The meeting was held at the Istana Alam Shah in the Royal town of Klang, Selangor. To commemorate the Meeting of the Conference the Royal town was bathed with lights, and the State Government of Selangor had erected an arch named Kota Darul Ehsan situated on the boundary of Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya as a gateway to the State of Selangor. Kota Darul Ehsan was built at a cost of RM4 million.

**State:** Sabah  
**Meeting:** 128th  
**Date:** 12 to 13 October 1983  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH Al-Sultan of Kelantan

The meeting was held at the Tanjung Aru Beach Hotel in Kota Kinabalu. The 128th Meeting of the Conference in Kota Kinabalu was a heated one because proposed amendments of the Constitution were put forth and discussed. At this place, meeting of the Conference of Rulers was able to make counter-proposals to the proposed amendments.

**State:** Terengganu  
**Meeting:** 131st  
**Date:** 11 to 12 July 1984  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH the Raja of Perlis

This meeting took place at the newly completed Pantai Primula Hotel in Kuala Terengganu.

**State:** Perak  
**Meeting:** 138th  
**Date:** 2 to 3 July 1986  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH the Raja of Perlis

The meeting was held at the Istana Iskandariah, Kuala Kangsar. Kuala Kangsar is a historic and nostalgic venue as far as the Conference of Rulers is concerned. It was here that the first Meeting of the Durbar was held. The Royal

town of Kuala Kangsar did not have hotels suitable for the accomodation of the Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri, but Istana Iskandariah had a big and long hall, suitable to be used as the venue of the Conference. The distance between the Royal town of Kuala Kangsar and Ipoh, the capital state of Perak, is close, i.e. about 46km only, therefore the Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri were able to stay in Hotel Casuarina in Ipoh that had just been completed. Some of the Rulers and the Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri stayed at other guest houses.

**State:** Kelantan  
**Meeting:** 141st  
**Date:** 28 to 29 July 1987  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH the Raja of Perlis

This meeting was held at the Istana Negeri in Kota Bharu. For purposes of hosting the 141st Meeting of the Conference, the State Government of Kelantan had agreed to renovate and extend Istana Kota Lama by adding another new building, opposite the old one. Istana Kota Lama was used as a place of residence for the Rulers. Some of the Rulers stayed at Istana Negeri in Kubang Kerian, Kota Bharu, Kelantan. The meeting was held at Istana Negeri.

**State:** Kedah  
**Meeting:** 153rd  
**Date:** 13 to 14 February 1991  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH the Sultan of Selangor

The place chosen for the 153rd meeting of the Rulers' Conference was Pelangi Beach Resort, the same place used for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 1989.

**State:** Sarawak  
**Meeting:** 157th  
**Date:** 24 to 25 June 1992  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH the Raja of Perlis

The meeting was held at the Wisma Bapa Malaysia, Petra Jaya, Kuching. This was the second time that Sarawak hosted the Meeting of the Conference of Rulers. The first time Sarawak played host was for the 116th meeting in 1979. The whole state administration of Sarawak was mobilised to make this meeting a success. The meeting in Sarawak was also held to commemorate the 29th anniversary of Sarawak joining Malaysia. At this meeting, the Sarawak State Government donated a sum of RM1 million as a contribution to the Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri Scholarship Fund.

**State:** Melaka  
**Meeting:** 173rd  
**Date:** 10 to 11 July 1996  
**Chairman of the meeting:** HRH Al-Sultan of Kelantan

The meeting was held at the A' Famosa Resort in Melaka. The A'Famosa Resort was ready just in time for the meeting.

The states which have yet to be invited to host the Conference of Rulers are Pahang, Negeri Sembilan, Johor (except the third meeting in 1948) and Perlis.

There was no meeting outside Kuala Lumpur in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

## The Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal

The title "Keeper of the Rulers' Seal" travelled a long distance from England to Malaysia via India. It is British in origin, dating back to more than 600 years ago. He is so called because he has the custody of the Seal of the Rulers. Not many people understand the nature and work of the Keeper. He is in fact the Secretary to the Conference of Rulers, (Section 4 of the Fifth Schedule to the Federal Constitution). In Malay, his title as provided for by the Federal Constitution is "*Penyimpan Mohor Besar Raja-Raja*". It was reported by HRH the Raja of Perlis that when the former Keeper of the Rulers' Seal was introduced to an Indian official, the official quipped "Oh, our Maharajahs don't keep the seal, they keep the tigers".

The Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal was set-up in 1948, to handle the secretarial work of the first Conference of Rulers in February 1948. Originally, the holder was the most senior civil servant. It was decided at one of the Meetings of the Conference of Rulers that the post of the Keeper should not be less than the most Senior Menteri Besar, who was then a senior civil servant. The justification was that he acts on behalf of all the Rulers, whereas a Menteri Besar acts on behalf of only a Ruler. Furthermore, the Rulers still had some executive authority, and therefore needed a senior official.

After independence, the executive authority of the Rulers was transferred to the *rakyat*. The Rulers became constitutional monarchs. As such, the post of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal no longer carry with it the responsibilities it once did.

The Office is manned by 11 staff, majority of which are in the clerical service. There are only two officers, the Keeper and his Assistant. The rest are supporting staff.

The Fifth Schedule to the Constitution provides that:

"3. The Conference of Rulers shall have a Rulers' Seal, which shall be kept in the custody of a person appointed by the Conference.

4. The person appointed under section 3 shall be known as the "*Penyimpan Mohor Besar Raja-Raja*" (Keeper of the Rulers' Seal), shall act as Secretary to the Conference of Rulers and shall hold his office at the pleasure of the Conference."

"6. The Keeper of the Rulers' Seal shall convene the Conference of Rulers whenever required to do so by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong or by not less than three members of the Conference and, without being so required, not later than four weeks before the expiry of the term of office of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and whenever a vacancy occurs in that office or in the office of the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong."

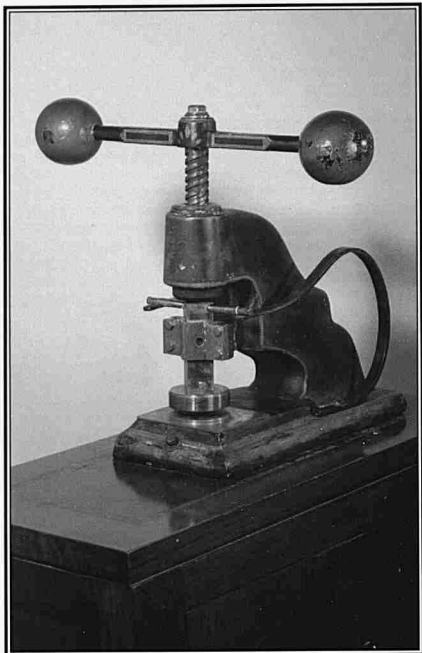
The following officers have held the post of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1) Y.M. Raja Ayob bin Raja Haji Bot (MCS)          | 18. 2.48 – 31. 5.48 |
| 2) Y.Bhg. Dato' Muda Abdullah bin Nordin (MCS)     | 1. 6.48 – 31. 3.49  |
| 3) Y.M. Raja Haji Shahar Shah bin Raja Haron (MCS) | 1. 4.49 – 31.12.49  |

- 4) Y.M. Tengku Husin bin Tengku Yahaya ..... 1. 1.50 – 23. 5.50
- 5) Y.M. Tunku Ya'acob bin Sultan Abdul Hamid ..... 24. 5.50 – 31. 1.52
- 6) Tuan Haji Mustafa Al-Bakri ..... February 1952 - 1954  
(later Dato') ..... February 1956 - 1957
- 7) Y.M. Tunku Ya'acob bin Sultan Abdul Hamid ..... February 1954 - 1956  
(later Tunku Dato')  
(Encik M. Othman – Acting 1956)
- 8) Encik Abdul Rahim bin Abdul Rauf ..... October 1957 - June 1963  
(later Dato')  
(Y.M. Tunku Shahriman (later Tan Sri Dato')  
Acting June 1963 - August 1963)  
(Encik A. Aziz Zakaria (later Tan Sri Dato')  
Acting August 1963 - March 1964)
- 9) Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Ahmad bin Haji Hussain ..... March 1964 - October 1980
- 10) Y.Bhg. Datuk Ahmad Zainal Abidin bin Mohd. Yusof ..... November 1980 - September 1988  
(Encik A. Rahim bin Kassim – Assistant Secretary  
Acting from February until December 1988)
- 11) Y.M. Engku Datuk Ibrahim bin Engku Ngah ..... January 1989 until now



Y.M. Engku Datuk Ibrahim bin Engku Ngah the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal of Malaysia signing "The Declaration of the Malay Rulers" on behalf of Their Royal Highnesses the Rulers at Istana Negara Kuala Lumpur on 4 July 1992.



The Rulers' Seal which was made in England in 1949. The face of the Seal consists of Coat-of-Arms of the 9 Malay States of the Federation.

## HISTORY OF THE SEAL

The term "SEAL" has two meanings: First, the instrument or matrix or die made from some hard objects such as bronze or steel to make an impression on soft objects such as paper or wax, and such impression follows exactly the reverse of what is engraved on the matrix. Secondly, "seal" refers to the impression made by the impact which had the image of the engraving on the paper or soft materials or wax.

In medieval times, the seal was used for purposes of identification similar to what signatures are used for today. The object is to authenticate a document originating from the owner of the seal, the same way as a document is signed by someone indicating authorship.

A charter, a deed, a letter or an official message in medieval times had to be authenticated through the impression of the seal on it or on something which is attached by a string to it. In the olden days, envelopes did not exist. Therefore, a letter was inserted into a container whereby the opening and the lid were tied up together and sealed so that the secret in the letter was kept confidential and not known to others except the addressee.

## THE SEAL IN MODERN TIMES

The seal is widely used even in the age of science and technology, by the government, corporate bodies and individuals.

The government is required to use the seal in all official documents. The Public Seal of the Federation is kept by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Article 36, Federal Constitution). The Public Seal of a State is normally kept by the Ruler or the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of the state. The Rulers' Seal is kept and used by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal as required by Section 4, of the Fifth Schedule, to the Federal Constitution.

## THE RULERS' SEAL

There are two Seals kept by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.

The first Seal is 51 cm long, 22 cm wide, 52 cm high, weighing 93 kg. It has a twisting arm, used as a holder to bring down the face of the top die of the Seal to come into contact with the opposite die at the bottom. When the two dies meet, an impression is made.

The Seal is attached by two bolts to a cupboard made from mahogany, so that it is placed permanently at the Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal. It is covered with a rectangular cover, 60cm high.

There are three padlocks to the Seal. Two padlocks are used to lock the dies of the Seal, and the other is used to lock the cover of the Seal to the cupboard.

The second Seal is 19.5 cm long, 8.5 cm wide and 20.5 cm high. The holder is 21 cm long, the Matrix is 6.5 cm high and the Seal block itself is 6cm high. Its total weight is 38kg.

The face of the second Seal is the same as the first Seal. The second Seal is mobile, intended to be brought outside the office, whenever necessary.

The body of both Seals are made from steel and the face of the Seals is made from bronze. Both were made in England in 1949.

The face of the Seal consists of a coat-of-arms of the nine Malay States and the words "Mohor Besar Raja-Raja Negeri Melayu" are written in the Jawi script. The Rulers' Seal is heavier than the Public Seal of the Federation kept by Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong under Article 36 of the Constitution.

### **THE HISTORY OF THE RULERS' SEAL**

The design of the face of the Seal was discussed in three meetings of the Rulers Conference, namely, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Meetings held on 18 February 1948, 19 May 1948 and 31 August 1948 respectively. The Conference of Rulers held on 31 August 1948 agreed to accept the design of the Seal which is used until today.

### **THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SEAL**

The Seal performs several functions:

- The Seal symbolizes the power and authority of the institution of the Conference of Rulers.
- It is a symbolic gesture of its authoritativeness because it emanates from an august body in the country.
- It gives credence and weight to the instrument if sealed with the Seal.
- It lends majesty to the instrument.
- The Seal evidences the originality of an instrument.
- Because the impact of the seal will change the texture of the paper, the seal lasts longer than "rubber stamp" using the ink stamped on the surface of the instrument.

### **THE USE OF THE SEAL**

Every official document issued under the name of the Conference of Rulers requires the Seal to be affixed to it followed by the signature of the Keeper, together with the date it was issued and the place where the Seal was affixed, to authenticate that the instrument or document is issued by the Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal under the directive of the Conference of Rulers.

Among the instruments that require the Seal to be affixed to them are:

- The Communique of the result of the election of Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong by the Conference of Rulers to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Prime Minister.
- The instrument of appointment of a Ruler as Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong or as Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

- The instrument of appointment of the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia.
- The instrument of appointment of the Chief Judge of the States of Malaya.
- The instrument of appointment of the Chief Judge of the Sabah and Sarawak.
- The instruments of appointment of the Judges of the Federal Court.
- The instrument of appointment of the Judges of the Court of Appeal.
- The instruments of appointment of the Judges of the High Courts of Malaya and of Sabah and Sarawak.
- The instrument of appointment of the Auditor-General.
- The instrument of appointment of the Chairman and members of the Public Services Commission.
- The instrument of appointment of the Chairman and members of the Education Services Commission.
- The instrument of appointment of the Chairman and members of the Election Commission.

A List of Appointments that require the consultation with the Conference of Rulers, together with the Constitutional provisions relating thereto, is appended in Table 8.1 of Chapter 8.

#### **HOW THE SEAL IS AFFIXED**

The document, to which the Seal is to be affixed, will be opened and spread, and a piece of dark red-coloured paper slightly bigger than the size of the Seal is pasted to the surface of the paper at the place where the Seal is to be affixed. The paper is round, although sometimes it would have zig-zag rim like the rays of the sun denoting the brightness of the Seal. The document is then inserted in between the two opposite matrixes. When the arm is twisted clockwise, the two dies meet to make an impression on the paper or document, on which the coat-of-arms are visible and the words are readable. Because the Seal will alter the fabric of the paper, it will last longer than ink, which will remain only on the surface of the paper, and will fade with time.





Photography session after the Ceremony in conjunction with the Royal Award Pingat Jaya Cemerlang of 1993 from the Chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia at Istana Hinggap, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

From left to right: Cik Ang Hooi Bee - B.Sc. Biochemistry (First Class Honours), HRH Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, HRH Tengku Ampuan of Negeri Sembilan, Ericik Mohd. Hisam Bin Ahmad - B.Sc. Computer (First Class Honours).



Medal, called Pingat Jaya Cemerlang and Certificate for Royal Award.

# The Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri Scholarship Fund

Scholarship issues are not new. They were first discussed in the first Durbar Conference in 1896 and again in 1903 and 1904. The matter was raised again in the eighth meeting of the reconvened Conference of Rulers on 31 August 1949. During this meeting, the Conference agreed to set up a Scholarship Fund of its own with a launching grant of RM12,000.

Contributions came from various sources. Although small in amount, the Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri made a significant contribution of 1% of their salaries to the Fund. This was increased to 2% in 1980. Over and above this, whatever sums due to the Rulers and Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri as allowances have also been channelled to the Fund.

For over three decades, the Fund was managed on an *ad hoc* basis by the Office of the Keeper. Only in 1983 was an Act of Parliament passed to lend credence and authority to the Fund. The Raja-Raja and Yang di-Pertua-Yang di-Pertua Negeri Scholarship Fund Act 1983 (Act 284) gives legislative cognisance to the Fund.

The Fund is now administered by a Board appointed by the Conference of Rulers. At present, the Board is headed by Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Haji Abdul Samad, the Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan, and four other members, namely Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Muhammad bin Haji Mohd. Taib, the Menteri Besar of Selangor; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohd. Khalil bin Yaakob, the Menteri Besar of Pahang; Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ramli bin Ngah Talib, the Menteri Besar of Perak; and Y.A.B. Datuk Seri Haji Mohd. Zin bin Haji Ab. Ghani, the Chief Minister of Melaka.

TABLE 18.1

## THE FUND

The Fund now stands at almost RM20 million comprising of fixed deposits, investments, equities, fixed assets, land and buildings, etc. Another milestone was achieved during the 157th Rulers' Conference in Kuching, Sarawak, when the Sarawak Government contributed a significant sum of RM1 million to mark the special occasion of Kuching being the host city of the Rulers' Conference.

From 1967 till 1982, 37 students were awarded various scholarships to pursue their studies in various fields in local universities. After the passing of the Act in 1983 until 1995, a total of 87 scholarships were awarded, making a total of 124.

Under the Act, a sum of almost RM2.0 million was spent on scholarships, as shown in the Table 18.1.

Year	Amount of Scholarship	Courses	Amount of Scholarship
1983	RM 20,277	Medicine	RM 3,740
1984	5,366	Dentistry	5,640
1985	54,725	Architecture	4,560
1986	23,806	Pharmacy	4,850
1987	171,092	Veterinary Science	4,740
1988	104,351	Science	4,740
1989	132,146	Engineering	4,560
1990	125,124	Quantity Surveying	4,560
1991	160,866	Land Surveying	4,560
1992	173,403	Town Planning	4,560
1993	278,866	Law	4,290
1994	362,173	Accountancy	4,290
1995	370,676	Economics	4,290
		Business Administration	4,290
		Usuluddin	4,210
		Syariah	4,210
		Islamic Studies	4,210
		Revealed Knowledge	4,210
		Arts	4,210
TOTAL	1,982,871		

The quantum of scholarship is quite generous depending upon the field of studies undertaken. The rationale is to take the students' minds off the various financial problems they would face while in the university, so that they could concentrate and give full attention to their studies. A breakdown of the amount of scholarships awarded according to disciplines would reveal the generosity of the award.

### SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

In order to give equal opportunity to students who are qualified, scholarships are awarded on meritocracy based on state lists and not on the national list. For this purpose, therefore, the best student from each state is given the award. The rationale for not using a national list is to avoid monopoly by big states like Selangor, Johor or Perak. As such, candidates from smaller states like Perlis and Melaka would not be deprived of the opportunity of being awarded scholarships.

A state-based meritocracy works in tandem with democracy, for smaller states have equal opportunity of representation. It works like the Senate of Malaysia or the Senate in the United States, whereby each State, no matter how small it is, has equal representation.

The Public Services Department of the Prime Minister's Department acts as the Secretariat to the Board in processing the application for the Scholarships, interviewing the candidates, and matters related therewith.

Another important feature of the Scholarship is that the recipients are not bonded to work under any contract of service. Students are free to work anywhere after graduation. The contract only says that the student must work diligently and pass the examinations within the contract period. Because of these, the Rulers' Scholarships are popular among the candidates because they are free to serve anywhere they like after they have graduated from the university, i.e. either with the government, with the private sector or on their own.

### THE ROYAL AWARD

To encourage students to work harder, and to further lend quality to the scholarship, the Royal Award (Anugerah Pelajaran Diraja - Pingat Jaya Cemerlang) was created in 1993. Every year, two best students – one Bumiputera and one Non-Bumiputera – are awarded the Anugerah Pelajaran Diraja. Until now 52 awards have been given.

The Royal Award consists of a medal, a certificate and a cash prize of RM2,500.

### GRADUATES

Since the establishment of the Fund, a total of 100 students have graduated in various fields (See Table 18.2).

The list of graduates who have completed their studies are as shown in Table 18.3.

It is the earnest hope of the Board and also of the Conference that more scholarships could be awarded in the near future, and not only to enable students to pursue their studies locally, but also overseas, even up to the post-graduate level.

The Board is of opinion that the time is now right to award more post-graduate scholarships to prepare for the manpower needs of the country for the next century. It is a challenge for the Board to look for ways and means to increase the fund so that the target is realised and the objective of Vision 2020 is achieved.

TABLE 18.2

Medicine	15
Law	13
Accountancy	11
Dentistry	8
Engineering	8
Islamic Studies	6
Usuluddin	5
Quantity Surveying	5
Pharmacy	4
Arts	4
Economics	3
Syariah	2
Land Surveying	3
Revealed Knowledge	2
Town Planning	1
Architecture	1
Business Administration	1
Agribusiness	1
Agricultural Science	1
Education	1
Veterinary Science	1
Computer Science	1
Science	1
Master of Science	1
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

TABLE 18.3  
 HOLDERS OF THE RAJA-RAJA AND YANG DI-PERTUA - YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI  
 SCHOLARSHIPS WHO HAVE GRADUATED

NO.	NAME / COURSES	YEAR	NO.	NAME / COURSES	YEAR
1.	Zaleha binti Ahmad Osman B.A. (Hons.) (UM)	1969/70	2.	Maziah binti Muhamad Kushairi B.A. (Hons.) (UM)	1969/70
3.	Ismail bin Hamid B.A. (Hons.) (UM)	1969/70	4.	Jamaluddin bin Mohd. Ali B.A. (Hons.) (UM)	1972/73
5.	Siti Salmah binti Mohd. Noor B.Ec. (Hons.) (UM)	1972/73	6.	Samsudin bin Othman B.Ec. (Hons.) (UM)	1972/73
7.	Osman bin Kassim B.Agr. Sc. (Hons.) (UM)	1973/74	8.	Sulaiman bin Mohd. Nawawi M.B.B.S. (UM)	1974/75
9.	Sarah binti Yaacob M.B.B.S. (UM)	1975/76	10.	Hamzah bin Musa M.B.B.S. (UM)	1976/77
11.	Mohd. Baharuddin bin Haron M.B.B.S. (UM)	1979/80	12.	Hussin bin Che Pa LL.B. (Hons.) (UM)	1979/80
13.	Fadzrizal bin Yahya LL.B. (Hons.) (UM)	1980/81	14.	Iskandar bin Yahya M.B.B.S. (UM)	1980/81
15.	Naimah binti Khalid LL.B. (Hons.) (UM)	1980/81	16.	Salmiah binti Bustanuddin B.D.S. (UM)	1980/81
17.	Zainal Azman bin Abdul Aziz LL.B. (Hons.) (UM)	1980/81	18.	Aris bin Salleh M.B.B.S. (UM)	1981/82
19.	Zainuddin bin Arshad B.D.S. (UM)	1981/82	20.	Mohd. Yusof bin Abdul Hamid Ph.D. (Rutgers)	1975
21.	Ismail bin Ali B.I.S. (Hons.) (UKM)	1977/78	22.	Ibrahim bin Abdullah B. Agribus. (UPM)	1980/81
23.	Zasmani binti Shafiee M.B.B.S. (UM)	1982/83	24.	Wan Azman bin Wan Ahmad M.B.B.S. (UM)	1982/83
25.	Khalib bin Abdul Latip M.B.B.S. (UM)	1982/83	26.	Daud bin Norakit B.I.S. (Hons.) (UKM)	1982/83
27.	Jahizah binti Hassan M.B.B.S. (UM)	1984/85	28.	Masariah binti Hasim M.B.B.S. (UM)	1984/85
29.	Nik Noriani binti Nik Badlishah LL.B. (Hons.) (UM)	1985/86	30.	Siti Ramlah binti Ahmad Ali M. Sc. (UKM)	1986/87

NO.	NAME / COURSES	YEAR	NO.	NAME / COURSES	YEAR
31.	Abdul Latip bin Haji Abd. Karim B.I.S. (Hons.) (UM)	1987/88	32.	Samsul bin Samdin B. Comp. Sc. (UPM)	1987/88
33.	Mustafa bin Manap B.Q.Surv. (UTM)	1987/88	34.	Ahmad Nazri bin Mansor B. Arch. (UTM)	1988/89
35.	Zulkiple bin Abdul Ghani BIS. (Hons.) (UKM)	1989/90	36.	Suzana binti Darus @ Darusman B. Pharm. Sc. (USM)	1989/90
37.	Zaini binti Wahab B.Sc. (Ed) (USM)	1989/90	38.	Ismail bin Hamat B.H.B.P. (UTM)	1989/90
39.	Jamal bin Ahmad B.Q.Surv. (UTM)	1989/90	40.	Zakaria bin Othman B. Acc. (UUM)	1989/90
41.	Othman bin Bakar LL.B. (Hons.) (UIA)	1989/90	42.	Sofiah binti Samsudin B. Usul. (Hons.) (UM)	1990/91
43.	Rostah binti Nayan M.B.B.S. (UKM)	1990/91	44.	Sinang ak Bada D. Vet. Sc. (UPM)	1990/91
45.	Azman bin Longchik B.L.Surv. (UTM)	1990/91	46.	Roslan bin Mat Tahar B.L.Surv. (UTM)	1990/91
47.	Iskandar Ali bin Dewa LL.B. (Hons.)	1990/91	48.	Hamidah binti Bani (UIA) B. Acc. (UIA)	1990/91
49.	Ibrahim bin Omar B.A.S.S. (UM)	1990/91	50.	Nasruddin bin Aspan M.B.B.S. (UM)	1991/92
51.	Biyamin bin Yusuf B.I.S. (UKM)	1991/92	52.	Zamlus bin Abdul Latif B. Eng. (Elec. Comp.) (UPM)	1991/92
53.	Azman Hisham bin Che Doi BBM (UUM)	1991/92	54.	Eny Yuzarniah binti Yahya B.D.S. (UM)	1992/93
55.	Hanisah binti Che Hassan B.D.S. (UM)	1992/93	56.	Azizan bin Md. Arshad LL.B. (Hons.) (UM)	1992/93
57.	Fazli bin Hisahak LL.B. (Hons.) (UM)	1992/93	58.	Shalika binti Ahmad B. Usul (Hons.) (UM)	1992/93
59.	Norhabibi binti Talib LL.B. (Hons.) (UKM)	1992/93	60.	Saharuddin bin Mohd. Yasin M.B.B.S. (USM)	1992/93
61.	Shaiful Kamarul bin Mohammed Sarip B. Acc. (UPM)	1992/93	62.	Mohd. Azmi bin Abd. Ghani B.Q.Surv. (UTM)	1992/93
63.	Hishamuddin bin Mohamed Amin B.Q.Surv. (UTM)	1992/93	64.	Mahadi bin Haji Mokhtar B. Acc. (UUM)	1992/93
65.	Fatamah @ Fadzillah binti Sidi B. Usul. (UM)	1993/94	66.	Sabarina binti Omar B.D.S. (UM)	1993/94
67.	Nor Hozani binti Ghazali B.D.S. (UM)	1993/94	68.	Marwati binti Ngademin B. Pharm. Sc. (USM)	1993/94

NO.	NAME / COURSES	YEAR	NO.	NAME / COURSES	YEAR
69.	Mohd. Idris bin Zakaria B.Usul. (USM)	1993/94	70.	Aina binti Dollah B. Acc. (UPM)	1993/94
71.	Ramli bin Desa B. Eng. (UPM)	1993/94	72.	Norazmi bin Mohd. Narawi LL.B. (Hons.) (UPM)	1993/94
73.	Azhar bin Aziz B. Sy. (UM)	1994/95	74.	Rohayu binti Tahir B.D.S. (UM)	1994/95
75.	Haslina binti Ibrahim B. Usul. (UM)	1994/95	76.	Rudie Arman bin Malie B. Eng. (UKM)	1994/95
77.	Fariza binti Hamzah LL.B. (Hons.) (UKM)	1994/95	78.	Shaidah binti Mohd. B. Pharm. Sc. (USM)	1994/95
79.	Norazlina binti Esmaail B. Acc. (UPM)	1994/95	80.	Haris bin Haji Sandamuddin B. Eng. (UPM)	1994/95
81.	Yasran bin Mat B. Acc. (UUM)	1994/95	82.	Noorhazlinda binti Mohamad Nor LL.B. (Hons.) (UIA)	1994/95
83.	Abd. Latiff bin Abd. Razak B.A. (Rev. Know.) (UIA)	1994/95	84.	Khairul Fariz bin Mohd. Kassim B. Pet. Eng. (UTM)	1994/95
85.	Zainol Rashid bin Sulaiman B. Chem. Eng. (UTM)	1994/95	86.	Husna binti Ali B.Sy. (UM)	1995/96
87.	Thema binti Abd. Majid M.D. (USM)	1995/96	88.	Arzami bin Che Man B.E. Eng. (UTM)	1995/96
89.	Rohanum binti Sulaiman B.Q.Surv. (UTM)	1995/96	90.	Ahmad Nizam bin Mat Amin B. Acc. (UUM)	1995/96
91.	Faridah binti Mustapha B. Acc. (UUM)	1995/96	92.	Maziah binti Mohamad B. Acc. (UUM)	1995/96
93.	Wan Rohani binti Wan Mohamad B. Acc. (UUM)	1995/96	94.	Asmadi bin Idris B. A. (Rev. Know.) (UIA)	1995/96
95.	Roslinda binti Lokmanul Hakim B. E. Eng. (UM)	1995/96	96.	Rosman bin Amat B.D.S. (UM)	1995/96
97.	Mohd. Zaidi bin Deraman B.I.S. (UKM)	1995/96	98.	Haslinda binti Jamil B. Pharm. Sc. (USM)	1995/96



Group photograph in conjunction with the Piala Majlis Raja-Raja Golf Tournament at Glenmarie Golf and Country Club, Subang, Selangor.

Seated from left to right: Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid, Chief Secretary to the Government; Y.A.Bhg. Tun Haji Syed Zahiruddin bin Syed Hassan, Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja of Perak; D.Y.T.M. Tuan Syed Sirajuddin ibni HRH Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, Raja Muda of Perlis; HE Tun Datuk Seri Utama Syed Ahmad Alhaj bin Syed Mahmud Shahabudin, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka; HRH Tuanku Ja'far ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; HRH Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah; Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah; HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj, Sultan of Selangor; HRH Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Tuanku Al Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, Sultan of Terengganu; Y.M. Tengku Abdul Aziz bin Tengku Mohd. Hamzah Tengku Sri Utama Raja of Kelantan; D.Y.T.M. Tengku Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah, Yang di-Pertuan Muda of Terengganu; Y.B. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Minister of Education; and Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohd. Khalil bin Yaakob, Menteri Besar of Pahang.



Golf Competition in conjunction with the 173rd Conference of Rulers in Melaka



## 19 Activities outside the Conference Room



HM Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Najihah and HRH Raja Perempuan of Perlis, Tengku Budriah looking over the exhibits during their royal visit to the Declaration of Independence Memorial, Melaka in conjunction with the 173rd Conference of Rulers on 10 July 1996.

Frank Swettenham reported that the Rulers and British officials had felt that apart from the serious discussions in the Conference Room, the Durbar should also include some ceremonial and entertainment events. Towards the end of the Durbar, sports and a garden party were held at Istana Iskandariah, Kuala Kangsar. The Durbar Conference attracted a large crowd.<sup>22</sup>

### SPORTS: FOOTBALL

To encourage and promote sports, a gold cup was presented by the Rulers to be used as a challenge trophy in a football match among Malays from various States. "Piala Raja-Raja" then became a major sports event. However, when the Malaysia Cup (formerly Malaya Cup) and Dunhill League Tournament became the centre stage of sports events, the status of Piala Raja-Raja was reduced to an inter-state all-Malay football tournament. The excitement is no longer there, because professionals, especially foreigners, and non-Malays cannot participate. It is time to change the format, content and composition of the game to bring it at par with other tournaments.

### SPORTS: GOLF

The only active and lively sport held in conjunction with the Rulers' Conference is golf. However competition is held on an *ad hoc* basis.

### SPORTS: BADMINTON

Badminton is more of a lady's affair and as with golf, competition is held on an *ad hoc* basis. The Rulers are involved in the game of golf. In any event, badminton is more of a game for the under-30's.

22 Frank Swettenham, "The Durbar of Malay Rulers" in J. Gullick (ed) *They Came to Malaya: A Traveler's Anthology* (1993) p. 230





Cake cutting ceremony commemorating the 100 Years the Formation of the Conference of Rulers at the Royal Banquet in honour of the 17th Rulers Conference at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur on 6 November 1996.

From left to right: HE Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran bin Dandal, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah; HE Tun Datuk Seri Utama Syed Ahmad Alhaj bin Syed Mahmud Shahabudin, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka; Paduka Seri Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-iah, Sultan of Perak; HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj, Sultan of Selangor; HRH Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, Raja of Perlis; HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman; HRH Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Tuanku Al Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, Sultan of Terengganu; HRH Al-Sultan Al Mu'tasimu Billah Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah; HRH Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah, Sultan of Pahang; HRH Tunku Naquiyuddin ibni Tuanku Ja'afar; Regent of Negeri Sembilan; Tun Dato' Seri (Dr.) Haji Hamdan bin Sheikh Tahir, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Pulau Pinang and Y.A.Bhg. Tun Datuk Patinggi Salahuddin (representative of Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak).

During the same ceremony HM Yang di-Pertuan Agong in his royal address also said among others "...the Conference which is convened three times a year reflects the stability and unity among the Malay Rulers and Their Excellencies Yang di-Pertua - Yang di-Pertua Negeri. It is in this Conference that the members are able to interact with the Prime Minister and the Menteri-Menteri Besar as well as the Chief Ministers. I am of the opinion that there is no better forum than this Conference of Rulers. Consequent to this I appeal to all members that they together may make this a success in the future for the sake of unity in line with the current evolution of time..."

Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister who represented Y.A.B. Prime Minister in his congratulatory address, among others, said "... the Conference of Rulers as the flag of the religion of Islam forms the foundation for national development while assisting the people in preparing to face the ever challenging future. The people in particular, is a unifying symbol towards the efforts of development of religion, race and the nation.

It is as a result of this tradition that assisted the people in opposing the colonials which led to the independence of the Federation of Malaysia in 1957. Independence also brought forth a more meaningful contribution to both the Government and the people. The Government believes that it is on this strength that assisted the people in accepting the change from one era of being Colonised to the Modern era and currently the Digital era which is full of challenges..."

*I*TS FUTURE

*I*n four years' time, we will be marching into the 21st Century, with vigour and candour, with unity and solidarity, with challenges and clear vision, with stronger willpower and firm determination. The "Great March" depends on the political stability, economic prosperity, social justice, and the world order.

The future of Malaysia is very bright. To look forward we have to look back into our past, i.e. our history; and Malaysia is rich in history. Our culture is thriving, our heritage is solid, our custom and tradition are colourful. The institution of monarchy is a heritage that is part and parcel of the Malay custom and a tradition that must be preserved. The strength and weaknesses, the image and dignity of the Conference very much depend upon the image and integrity of the individual rulers.

A nation is composed of three parties in unity and partnership: the head of state be he the sovereign or the president; the parliament and the government; and the *rakyat* or citizens. The King is the sovereign, the supreme head of the Federation. He is the symbol of the nation, and the object of every citizen's allegiance and loyalty. He is the fountain of justice, the reservoir of mercy, the wall of privileges, the pillar of unity, the arch of freedom and the umbrella of honour. Besides, he is an institution of Parliament, head of the executive, the supreme commander of the armed forces, protector of the religion of Islam. Notwithstanding these, he too is subject to the constraints imposed by the Constitution. So are the Rulers.

The government – the entire body of those people who are vested with power and authority – is also subject to the laws and the Constitution. It must execute its power and authority according to the law. "So Government too is subject to the supremacy of the Constitution," in the same way as the monarchy, the Parliament and the courts are subject to the supremacy of the Constitution.

The institution of monarchy is one of the five pillars of the Rukunegara. Loyalty to the King and the country is imposed on the subjects but even the King is subject to the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution, for his oath of office states that: "We do solemnly and truly declare that We shall justly and faithfully perform our duties in the administration of Malaysia in accordance with its laws and constitution which have been promulgated or which may be promulgated from time to time in the future. Further We do solemnly and truly declare that We shall at all time protect the Religion of Islam and uphold the rules of law and order in the Country."

The Conference of Rulers is a body that makes decisions as a group. This is in consonance with the principles of *syura* as practised in Islam.

Since Islam is the official religion of the Federation, all acts and observances, customs and traditions, must be in tandem with Islam.

Since the legal and constitutional powers of the Conference are very narrow and limited, the Conference had ventured into other areas as allowed by the law. One such area is the social responsibility it has taken upon itself of providing scholarships to deserving students to pursue their studies at the institutions of higher learning. But again the Fund is limited. If funds are available, other areas that might be worth considering are the welfare homes – homes for the aged and the handicapped, the poor and the needy. There are more than 100 such homes now in existence, mostly patronized by the *Istana*s, but none in the name of the Conference. Each home need not be big, but must be located in every district. Their presence must be felt.

The conference ought also to expand its patronage of sports by donating the challenge trophies for sports other than soccer. To this end perhaps the corporate giants ought to lend their financial support to give a firm and solid foundation to the social responsibility of the Conference.

The institution of the Conference of Rulers is not only august but unique, not only colourful but glorified. Let us preserve this uniqueness by strengthening it. Together, let us join hands to lend support to the programmes organized now and in the future, in the name of the Conference. It is a worthy cause.

Let not the yellow colour of the Royal Standard be tainted with politics. Let not the palace be identified with a particular political party. Let the *Istana* stand aloof above politics. Let not the individual ruler go against the grain of the rule of law and the Constitution, for, to quote Tuanku Azlan Shah, when he was the Chief Justice of the States of Malaya in his convocation speech at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Pulau Pinang in 1979: "For so long as the *rakyat* have faith in the ruler and earned respect for the institution, the throne will not be moved from the *Istana* to the museum".



Group photograph at Istana Arau, Perlis in conjunction with the Golden Anniversary celebration of HRH Raja of Perlis on 4 December 1995.

## CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

- 1896 The Federated Malay States comprising Perak, Selangor, Pahang and Negeri Sembilan was formed on 1 July.
- 1897 The First Durbar of the Malay Rulers of the Federated Malay States, was held at Istana Negara, Kuala Kangsar, Perak from 13 July to 17 July.
- 1898 The Yamtuan Besar Seri Menanti, Tuanku Muhammad ibni Tuanku Antah was appointed the First Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan on 29 April.
- 1903 The Second Durbar of Rulers was held in Kuala Lumpur.
- 1903 Installation of HRH Sultan Sulaiman ibni Almarhum Raja Musa as Sultan of Selangor on 5 November.
- 1909 The Federal Council was instituted by an agreement signed by the Rulers of the FMS and the High Commissioner, HE Sir John Anderson.
- 1909 HE the High Commissioner opened the first meeting of the Federal Council at Kuala Kangsar on 11 December.
- 1912 An agreement was signed on 4 March between HRH the Sultan of Perak and HRH the Sultan of Kedah regarding the boundary between Kedah and Perak in the neighbourhood of Baling and Tasek.
- 1927 The Third Durbar of Rulers was held in Kuala Kangsar.
- 1927 The Federal Council of the FMS was reorganised.
- 1927 The Rulers withdrew from the Federal Council on 2 April, meeting instead in an annual Durbar.
- 1930 Durbar of Rulers in Singapore on 11 October.
- 1931 Durbar of Rulers at Seri Menanti on 18 August, where the High Commissioner HE Sir Cecil Clementi announced the 'decentralisation policy' for the FMS
- 1932 Durbar of Rulers in Pekan, Pahang on 28 April.
- 1933 Durbar of Rulers in September.
- 1934 Durbar of Rulers on 3 February.
- 1939 Durbar of Rulers on 25 November.
- 1945 Rulers sign the Mac Michael Treaties ceding full jurisdiction to the British Crown. The treaties were concluded between October and December 1945.
- 1946 Command Paper No. 6724 (White Paper) was issued on 22 January outlining the proposal to establish a Malayan Union.

- 1946 Report of Sir Harold A. Mac Michael's Mission to Malaya published on 28 January for presentation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
- 1946 The Malayan Union was inaugurated on 1 April.
- 1946 The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) was founded on 11 May with Dato' Onn bin Jaafar as its first President.
- 1946 Cession of Sarawak to the British Crown on 1 July.
- 1946 Meeting of the Rulers and UMNO representatives with the Governor HE Sir Edward Gent, on 18 July, where the need to replace the Mac Michael Treaties was emphasised.
- 1946 A Constitutional Working Committee consisting of representatives of the Malayan Government, the Rulers and UMNO was appointed on 25 July.
- 1946 The final Plenary Conference of the Constitutional Proposals for Malaya was held at King's House, Kuala Lumpur on 20 November.
- 1948 The Malayan Union was dissolved and the Federation of Malaya inaugurated on 1 February.
- 1948 First Conference of Rulers under the new Federation of Malaya was held at the Federal Legislative Council Chamber on 18 February. It was attended by all 9 Malay Rulers.
- 1948 The inaugural meeting of the Federal Legislative Council was held on 24 February. It was officiated by HE the High Commissioner, Sir Edward Gent.
- 1948 Eighth meeting of the Conference of Rulers held on 31 August and 1 September.
- 1949 Conference of Rulers on 15 June.
- 1949 Meeting of the Conference of Rulers held on 30 November.
- 1950 Tenth meeting of the Conference of Rulers held on 22 and 23 February.
- 1950 The Federation Flag was approved by the Federal Legislative Council on 19 April.
- 1950 Eleventh meeting of the Conference of Rulers on 24 and 25 May.
- 1950 Twelfth meeting of the Conference of Rulers on 31 August.
- 1951 Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Rulers on 20 March.
- 1951 The 'Member System' for administration was introduced on 9 April.
- 1951 The British High Commissioner of Malaya, Sir Henry Lovell Goldsworthy Gurney was assassinated by communists on 7 October.
- 1951 Special meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Dewan Astana, Selangor on 4 December, related to the progress of the Emergency.

- 1952 In March, the Malay Rulers bestowed the Mace (Cokmar) on the Executive Council.
- 1952 The Rulers of the Malay States gave their assent to the new Coat - of - Arms of the Federation of Malaya on 30 May.
- 1953 Conference of Rulers was held in July.
- 1955 The 1st General Election was held on 27 July.
- 1955 A Conference of Rulers was held in Kuala Lumpur on 29 September, to obtain approval to changes in the Constitution, made with a view to gaining Independence.
- 1955 Conference of Rulers held on 21 December.
- 1956 The Constitutional Conference was held in London from 18 January to 6 February.
- 1956 The Independence Agreement was signed at Lancaster House, London on 8 February.
- 1956 The date for the Independence of Malaya was announced at the Bandar Hilir Padang, Melaka on 20 February.
- 1957 A Committee headed by Tunku Abdul Rahman selected 'Negara Ku' as the National Anthem.
- 1957 A Conference of Rulers was held on 14 March, where it was agreed that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong would be the head of State and Permanent Chairman of the Rulers Council, in independent Malaya.
- 1957 The UMNO General Assembly at its meeting on 30 June, unanimously accepted the White Paper on the Constitutional Proposals for the Federation of Malaya.
- 1957 The Federation of Malaya Independence Act 1957 was passed by the British Parliament on 31 July.
- 1957 The Federal Legislative Council ratified the Constitution on 1 August, giving the green-light for the birth of independent Malaya, ending 446 years of Western dominion and 171 years of British rule.
- 1957 A Special Conference of Rulers held in Kuala Lumpur on 3 August, elected the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad as the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong.
- 1957 The Federation of Malaya Agreement, 1957 was signed on 5 August between the British High Commissioner and the Malay Rulers.
- 1957 At the stroke of midnight on 31 August, the Federation of Malaya became an independent country.
- 1957 On 31 August, Independence was proclaimed by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj, the first Prime Minister, at the Merdeka Stadium.
- 1957 On 2 September, HM Tuanku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Tuanku Muhammad was installed as the First Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaya.
- 1957 Malaya was formally accepted as a member country of the United Nations on 17 September.

- 1958 The first post-independence Conference of Rulers was held on 2 July at Istana Negara.
- 1959 The Federal Legislative Council was dissolved in June to pave the way for General Elections. It also marked the end of the unicameral parliament.
- 1959 The Federal General Election was held on 19 August.
- 1959 The first post-independence Cabinet was formed on 23 August.
- 1959 The first session of Parliament was convened on 11 September.
- 1959 The official opening of the first Parliament by HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was held at the Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman, Jalan Ampang on 12 September.
- 1960 The Hibiscus flower (Bunga Raya) was proclaimed the national flower, by the Prime Minister at the opening ceremony of the MAHA Exhibition on 28 July.
- 1961 HM the Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, was installed as the Third Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 4 January.
- 1961 On 27 May, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj revealed his plan to form Malaysia at a dinner of the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southeast Asia, in Singapore.
- 1961 Tunku Abdul Rahman tabled a resolution in Parliament on 16 October, for the formation of Malaysia. The Dewan Rakyat approved the proposal on 18 October.
- 1962 The Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj was made the Chancellor of the University of Malaya on 26 January, thereby becoming the first Malaysian to hold the post.
- 1962 Members of the Cobbold Commission, formed to ascertain the wishes of the people of Borneo on the matter of joining Malaysia, were elected on 16 January.
- 1962 A Memorandum on the formation of Malaysia was agreed to and signed on 3 February, for submission to the Cobbold Commission.
- 1962 The Report of the Cobbold Commission was presented to the British Government on 21 June.
- 1962 A Referendum was held in North Borneo in December.
- 1963 A Referendum was held in Sarawak in February.
- 1963 The Malaysia Agreement was signed at midnight in Malborough House, London, on 8 July. The principal signatories were the British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Mustapha Harun for Sabah, Temenggong Jugah anak Bareng for Sarawak and Lee Kuan Yew for Singapore.
- 1963 A UN Mission led by Lawrence Michelmore arrived in East Malaysia on 8 August, to assess the views of the people of Sabah and Sarawak on the formation of Malaysia.
- 1963 The State Government of Kelantan challenged the Government of the Federation of Malaysia, over the formation of Malaysia on 10 September.

- 1963 The Federation of Malaysia was proclaimed on 16 September at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.
- 1963 On 1 October, the Federal Court was established and the Lord President, Datuk C.M. Smerident officiated the opening ceremony.
- 1963 The new RM16 million Parliament building, consisting of the three-storey main block and an 18-storey tower block was declared open on 2 November by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Almarhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail.
- 1964 On 31 January, the country hosted the first Middle-East and Asian Muslim Conference attended by over 300 participants from 25 countries. The conference paved the way for Malaysia's active participation in the affairs of the Islamic World.
- 1964 The 2nd parliamentary General Election was held on 25 April.
- 1965 The separation of Singapore from Malaysia was announced on 9 August.
- 1965 The First Malaysia Plan ( 1966 - 1970 ) was tabled in the Dewan Rakyat on 15 December.
- 1966 HM Tunku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin was installed as the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 11 April 1966. He was elected as Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 19 August 1965 and sworn in on 21 September the same year.
- 1967 Sabah held its first state elections on 8 April, under UN observation.
- 1967 10th Anniversary of Merdeka celebration held on 31 August.
- 1967 The National Language became the official language of Malaysia on 1 September.
- 1968 The Yang di-Pertuan Agong declared open the fifth session of Parliament on 6 June.
- 1968 Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman received London's highest and rarest accolade - the Freedom of the City as a tribute to his national and international services on 19 June.
- 1968 Conference of Rulers was held at Istana Negara on 16 October.
- 1969 The Second Parliament was dissolved on 20 March.
- 1969 The 3rd General Election was held on 10 May.
- 1970 The first meeting of the National Goodwill Council was held on 30-31 March.
- 1970 Tunku Abdul Rahman announced his resignation and Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Hussain, succeeded him as Prime Minister on 22 September.
- 1970 HM Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah was elected the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong and took the oath of office on 21 September.
- 1970 The 88th Conference of Rulers was held in Kuala Lumpur on 19 and 20 October.



- 1971 The first meeting of a Parliamentary Session was held on 20 February. It signalled the restoration of Parliamentary Democracy which was suspended for 20 months.
- 1971 The Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1971 was approved by Parliament on 9 March. It served to prevent any person from making statements concerning sensitive issues with racial overtones.
- 1972 HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong opened the second session of the Third Parliament on 9 May.
- 1974 The Third Parliament was dissolved on 31 July.
- 1974 The 4th General Election was held on 24 August.
- 1975 HM Tuanku Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim was elected the Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 19 June and was sworn in on 21 September.
- 1976 HM Tuanku Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim was installed as the Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 28 February.
- 1978 The Fourth Parliament was dissolved on 12 June.
- 1978 The 5th General Election was held on 8 July.
- 1978 New cabinet announced on 27 July.
- 1978 HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong officially opened the first session of the Fifth Parliament on 9 October.
- 1979 Demise of HM Tuanku Yahya Petra ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim, Sixth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 3 March.
- 1979 HM Tuanku Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah, was elected the Seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 25 April.
- 1981 Official opening of the 3rd Session of the Fifth Parliament by HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 16 March.
- 1982 Parliament was dissolved on 29 March.
- 1983 Former Lord President Tun Mohamed Suffian announced that the Government had agreed to set up a Supreme Court as a further avenue of appeal in March.
- 1983 The Dewan Rakyat passed the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1983 on 9 August.
- 1983 The Rulers gave consent to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1983 passed by the Dewan Rakyat on 15 December.
- 1985 The Supreme Court is inaugurated and hears its first case on 8 January.
- 1986 Voters go to the polls in snap General Election on 2 August.
- 1989 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting starts in Kuala Lumpur on 18 October.

- 1990 Malaysia mourns the demise of Bapa Kemerdekaan and the first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj on 6 December.
- 1992 The majority of the Malay Rulers sign the proclamation of the Constitutional Principles at the Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur in July.
- 1995 Parliament is dissolved to pave the way for the 9th General Election on 5 April.
- 1996 The Special Court rules that foreigners have no legal right to sue the Malay Rulers on 7 February.

## ANECDOTES

### By HM the Yang di-Pertuan Agong

The following anecdote culled from the book (Trival Fond Records, London, 1937) by Sir Laurence Guillemard (High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States and Governor of the Straits Settlements, 1919-1927) may be of interest to present-day readers for it provides a perception of the character of Malay Rulers in the bygone days:

In 1925, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Muhammad, paid a visit to England. Sir Laurence Guillemard, as the High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, was on hand to introduce Tuanku Muhammad to King George V. Sir Laurence spoke of Tuanku Muhammad as "a fine figure of a man and in costume of ceremony was a magnificent sight."

Apparently before the interview, King George V enquired of Sir Laurence what sort of person Tuanku Muhammad was. "Will he be difficult to talk to?" the King asked, "I hope he won't be shy."

Sir Laurence assured the King that he need not have any anxiety about that; Tuanku Muhammad would not be nervous and would treat the King with all due deference. But Sir Laurence emphasized, "...it will be a meeting of monarchs." "And so it was," Sir Laurence wrote in his book. At the end of the audience the King invested Tuanku Muhammad with the K.C.V.O. and went away delighted with the reception.

When Sir Laurence next had occasion to meet the King, the potentate asked him, "How is that splendid sultan you brought to see me?" and added, "I shall always remember him."



### By HRH the Raja of Perlis

When I first became the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Tunku never failed to turn up at Istana Negara every Wednesday morning at 0900 hours for Cabinet briefing. I used to ask him a lot of questions. As usual, the Tunku was never prepared. Just before he left Istana Negara, he quipped, "The next time you ask me a lot of questions, I'll send Tan Siew Sin" (the then Minister of Finance).



On one Wednesday morning, as usual, the Tunku turned up for briefing at Istana Negara before the Cabinet Meeting. This time, Tun Razak accompanied him. The Tunku, in his usual cheerful mood, talked on almost everything, but when it came to Cabinet briefing, he asked Tun Razak to do the talking.



When the Second Yang di-Pertuan Agong was taken ill, Tunku, the then Prime Minister gave me, as the Timbalan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, a call, in which he said, "Tuanku, you must be prepared to come to Kuala Lumpur now as the King was ill; please bring along everything, enough for one month's stay". That one month's stay lasted for five years.



After the demise of the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the main door of Istana Negara was enlarged so as to enable 8 people to bring out the remains of His Majesty from the *Istana* for state burial. After the demise of the second Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the main door was again found to be small, not enough space to bring out the

remains. It was again enlarged. When I went in as the third King, I told the Tunku, "Please don't enlarge the main door anymore, I don't like to be brought out. I want to go out by myself." I completed my term of office.



In the early part of my tenure as the third Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Tunku very much wanted President Soekarno to pay a State Visit to the then Malaya. We were prepared to receive Soekarno, and the State was ready to give him a warm red-carpet welcome. Then came confrontation. After the normalization of diplomatic relations, the Tunku still wanted Soekarno to come. Soekarno never turned up. Certainly not after he was ousted.



Towards the later part of the Colonial days, the last British High Commissioner, Sir Donald Mac Gillivray, looked at me as the "Doyen" of the Malay Rulers, although I was the most junior. Often he used to come to Arau by boat, anchored at Kuala Perlis, and drove to Istana Arau in a police car at the wee hours, sometimes at 0100 or 0200 hours in the morning. He persuaded me to convince the other Rulers to accept certain proposals that he would be making at the Rulers Conference. Once I told him straight in the face "If you can't convince me, how am I going to convince my Brother Rulers?" It happened that was the last wee hour visit.



The Tunku never wanted me to go on a State Visit to US, so I had to make a private visit. When we arrived at Florida, we were received by the "host", an American who had some business interest in South-east Asia. Everything was arranged for transport, luggage, accommodation, etc, such that the Malayan Embassy in Washington had nothing much to help with. But surprisingly, on the day of our departure, we were left in the cold no transport, no helpers, nothing. Luckily, the boys at the Malayan Embassy in Washington could manage to arrange everything just minutes before the scheduled flight departure. It was the "American Hospitality".



During one private dinner with an American family, I was asked a surprise question by the lady of the house. "Do you have butter in your country?" to which I replied. "We not only have butter, but we produce non-dairy butter."



Once, there was this American, who spoke to me over the phone. He had the wrong impression about Malaysia, like many others did. With that kind of impression, he spoke to me by pausing after each syllable, and after every word, and asked at the end of the sentence. "Do... you... under...stand...me...?" As a reply, I had to explain to him diplomatically, who we were, where we came from, etc. and I overheard him remarked to his wife over the phone, "Darling, he speaks better English than we do...!"



During my State Visit to the Middle East, I met King Hussein of Jordan. He suggested that we visit Baitul Muqaddis, the third Islamic holy city. So we went. I was told that I was the only Malaysian King that was fortunate enough to pay a state visit to Jerusalem.



During my State Visit to India the Indian Navy was given the honour of playing the National Anthems of Malaysia and India. They were not used to the "Negaraku". The Malaysian High Commission in New Delhi supplied the anthem, ending with the word "REPEAT".

When I arrived, I was ushered to the Royal dais to take the Royal Salute, and the Malaysian National Anthem was played. It was repeated for five or six times. I did not want to desalute until the National Anthem was stopped, until my ADC whispered to me from the back where I stood, "Tuanku, jangan tabek lagi!" (Tuanku, stop saluting!) Only then did the National Anthem come to an abrupt end.



In the plane on our way to New Delhi, I introduced Dato' Ahmad Haji Hussein as "The Keeper of the Rulers' Seal" to one of the high ranking Indian Officials, upon which he remarked. "Oh, our Maharajahs don't keep the seal, they keep the tigers".



### By HRH the Sultan of Kedah

I was the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong in early 70's when Al-Malik Feisal of Saudi Arabia came for a State Visit. I became host, as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was indisposed. During the State Banquet given in honour of Al-Malik Feisal, the King of Saudi Arabia, at Istana Negara, an Arab interpreter was seated in between both of us. He was very fluent in both English and Arabic. Half way through the banquet, the interpreter disappeared, quietly sneaking out to have his dinner. Most probably he was very hungry after a day's hard work. Al-Malik Feisal continued talking, and there was no response from his interpreter. Embarrassed, the King immediately took over the role of interpreter himself and continued the conversation in beautiful English. It was as good, if not better, than those words which came out from the mouth of the interpreter.



During the same State Banquet, lobster was served, and as usual, warm water was placed in a silver cup called "batil" in case the guests wanted to wash their hands. A few of the Arab High Officials at the main table, after the second course, reached for the "batil" with two hands and drank the contents. I pretended not to see, but some guests did, including my uncle, the Tunku. So as not to embarrass the honoured state guests further, I refrained from using the "batil" to wash my hand, and requested the waiter to take them away.



The Tunku was an ardent durian fan. Although it was out of season, he took the trouble to ask someone to get some durians for Al-Malek Feisal to taste. He managed to get four or five durians, and presented them to Al-Malik Feisal at the Guest House. (Now Carcosa Sri Negara). Before the end of the visit, I paid a courtesy call to Al-Malik Feisal at the Guest House, and the smell of incense (kemenyan) covered the whole Guest House. I thought someone had passed away, and asked the King who it was. He said the Tunku was the cause of the whole thing. He brought some "fruits that went bad within minutes". They were the durians.



On our State Visit to the United Kingdom, Princess Margaret was there at the Heathrow London Airport to receive us. From there, we were driven by train in a Royal Coach to the Victoria Station, to be received by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her consort, Prince Philip. From Victoria Station, we were driven again in a Royal Chariot drawn by five horses to the Buckingham Palace accompanied by Her Majesty and her consort.

With the intention of having a similar tradition in Malaysia, whereby State Guests were carried in coaches, I told my uncle, the Tunku, who later became the first Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) about the train and coach ride. The Tunku was quick when he quipped. "Come to Jeddah. We'll send you a Royal Camel".



During the State Visit to the United Kingdom, Dato' Sardon (later Tun) was the Minister-in-Attendance. The Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak had cautioned that the Minister-in-Attendance could be lost in the crowd at a party and must be extracted at the crucial time lest he got carried away. I had an understanding with the High Commissioner, Dato' Syed Zahiruddin (now Tun), that if the mood got out of the ordinary, I would leave the function with the Minister-in-Attendance. Now I wonder who was attending to whom!



Our first State Visit overseas as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was to attend the 2500 years anniversary celebration of the Peacock Throne, hosted by the late Shah of Iran. At first, I declined the invitation which prompted the Shah to send a special emissary and through the advice of my uncle, the Tunku, I finally accepted.

The Shah arranged for a special coach to take us to Persepolis, the site of the celebration, which was transformed, from its arid surroundings, into a lush Garden of Eden. All the Kings and Queens were seated in the coach and Queen Farah Diba, standing in the aisle, appointed herself as tourist guide and gave a remarkable narration on the various historical and interesting sites along the way.

The most colourful figure on the coach was the Emperor Haile Selassie, who brought along his dog, which was placed on a seat next to him. I could still picture the dog, which wore a diamond studded choker on its collar.



The Shah hosted a Royal Banquet at Persepolis. All the Kings and Queens were accorded special status and given precedence over other Heads of State or their Representatives.

We were paired off separately and amidst a lot of fanfare, entered the Great Banquet Hall. I escorted Madame Tito of Yugoslavia when the announcement, "the King of Malaysia" came on the air. The Raja Permaisuri Agong was to be escorted by the King of Lesotho, and when the announcement, "the Queen of Malaysia" came, suddenly, Mrs. Marcos, who represented her husband, shot across and took the arm of the King. I was shocked and surprised, as the announcement was crystal clear and she could not have heard it differently. The Raja Permaisuri Agong had no other choice but to be escorted in by the escort of Mrs. Marcos.

Later, I learned that Mrs. Marcos, although escorted in as the "Queen of Malaysia" was ushered to her designated seat and the Raja Permaisuri Agong took her rightful place at the Main Table.



### **By HRH the Sultan of Selangor**

When the Federal Government decided to take Kuala Lumpur as the Federal Territory, I was asked to give a name to the new township. After having several meetings, we decided on the name "Shah Alam". Shah means "great", "high", "majesty", "leader", and Alam means "world", "universal". So, Shah Alam would mean "a great world", or "a majestic world". When the State Executive Council decided to accept the new name, an announcement was made. Did you know? We received congratulatory messages from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, and other Arab leaders for choosing a good name.



When I was attending a private school in London, I studied history and geography, and Tun Razak studied law. We had the same kind of school bags, slightly smaller than suitcases. One day, Tun Razak by mistake took my bag, and I took his. When I reached the school, I opened the bag in front of my teacher. He was surprised to see that my bag contained all law books and he commented, "Since when did you switch to law studies; you haven't completed your history and geography yet".



Once there were five of us — the Rulers — in London. It was not planned to be that way, but it happened. The Sultan of Pahang said, "Just give an order to the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal to be here, we can have a Meeting of the Rulers' Conference."



Tunku Abdul Rahman was acknowledged as a leader even though he was still a student in London. He lent a lot of money to Malayan students. He appointed me as a "debt collector". Every month, I had to go round and collect the debt. If I could not collect, I would be scolded by Tunku. Obediently, I pleaded with the students to pay the "hutang". A comment was made "Kasihani Anak Raja tu, kena pungut hutang". Tan Sri Taib Andak from Johor was always evasive. Tunku used to compliment me. 'You are a good "debt collector" '.



One winter night, I was so hungry. There was no food except some bananas in my room. So, I had to go out looking for some sandwiches at the Earls' Court Station. There was a gentleman with a walking stick who was sitting next to me in the Café. He asked me where I was from, and I replied "from Malaya" and I introduced myself as a prince from Selangor. When he left, the Cafe man asked me "Do you know who he is? He is the Prince of Wales".



When the Tunku was the President of the Malayan Students Society in United Kingdom and Ireland, Tun Razak was the secretary. We used to have a lot of gatherings in London discussing politics and the future of Malaya. Za'ba was the speech writer, Saleha Ali was the typist. We had meetings every other day, stretching into the fasting month. We stopped having meetings only four days before Hari Raya.



When I was still the Tengku Laksamana of Selangor, way back in the 1950's, I was appointed as the Regent of Selangor. I was asked by HRH the Sultan to represent him at a Meeting of the Conference of Rulers. I was accompanied by Dato' Hamzah, the Menteri Besar and Advisor. That was the first time I had the opportunity to rub shoulders with the Rulers. "Omigosh, I couldn't sleep well for about a week, preparing for the meeting".



When HRH the Sultan of Selangor performed the Haj, I was appointed the Regent of Selangor. Selangor was always the host, because Kuala Lumpur was then in Selangor. My father reared a lot of "English Chicken", which was quite common in those days, like Red Hampshire, White Leghorn, etc. During lunch, Istana Selangor served chicken as one of the menu. Tuanku Badlishah, the late Sultan of Kedah was there, and he commented "No wonder three of your father's chicken went missing. Wait till he comes back, I'll tell him".



During the early fifties, petrol was rationed in London, and coupons were issued limiting the purchase of petrol. Tunku's Austin was always on the road. Some jealous British car owners reported to the police about Tunku's Austin. A police Inspector was sent to investigate. The Tunku told the Inspector that he was a scientist who could produce petrol from Gin plus Whiskey plus Brandy. The Tunku said "If you don't believe me, come let's go to the bar and I'll show you how to do it". The Inspector left looking puzzled.



In August 1960, I was overseas. My father was taken ill, and I had to come back. At the Istana Selangor, Tunku Abdul Rahman, the first Prime Minister was there to visit my father. He knew that I just came back, and he commented "This Raja Muda is always overseas. Next time, I'll make you Ambassador-at-Large No. 2, but no allowance".



In January 1975, Tun Abdul Razak was in a London Hospital. He desperately wanted to see me. So, I went. He said, "Tuanku, saya benar-benar rindu kampung halaman, saya nak balik ke Pahang" ("Tuanku, I really missed my homeland, I want to go back to Pahang"). Three days later, he died, without being able to see his homeland.



Tun Razak looked on me as his personal advisor. There was too much criticism in Parliament about Colonial names. The government decided to change "Port Swettenham" to something Malaysian, Tun Razak called me at the Istana. He gave me a few days to think of a new name. So, after consulting State officials, I came up with a name. So, I told him "Tun, how about Port Kelang" and he agreed.



Coliseum Cafe at Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman (Batu Road) evokes a nostalgia in many of us. When the Malay Rulers stayed at the Station Hotel (the present Kuala Lumpur Railway Station), the Menteri-Menteri Besar used to have meetings at the Coliseum Cafe. I was closer to the Menteri-Menteri Besar than to the Rulers, even though I was the Raja Muda. "Did you know, a plate of mee goreng was only 20 sen and steak one dollar!".



The Malayan Students Union at Dorchester, London in the 1950's was always a hot spot. The sound of typewriters went into the wee hours of the morning preparing reports for the Majlis newspaper. Tunku and Abdul Razak (later Tun) were there as always, watching others doing their work. Sardon Jubir (later Tun) used to disturb us with his Javanese accent. Mohd. Suffian (later Tun) and BBC Musa were there too. All these happened because we were preparing for Merdeka.



Tunku Abdul Rahman was the only student who had a car - an Austin 1948. Others had to be content with buses and subways. If we wanted to go to the Malayan Students Union House in Dorchester, it was a free ride in the Austin. Otherwise, we had to buy the petrol or wash the car.





The greatest sacrifice in history that Selangor made to the nation was to surrender 93 square miles of her territory to the Federal Government as Wilayah Persekutuan.



When I was in Florida having an eye operation way back in 1984, a Rolls Royce, quite an old one, was given by the State for my personal use in Florida. I was assigned a driver who was a black. The next morning he came to drive me to the hospital. He drove his own Rolls Royce to drive my Rolls Royce. His was a brand new one. The only difference was the Selangor Royal Standard on my car, but not on his.



#### **By HRH the Sultan of Pahang**

I used to spend days and weeks in the kampungs together with my subjects. I like it because it gives me a sense of satisfaction - that the Ruler is close to his subjects. If they are prepared to meet me, then I must be prepared to meet them.



My late father used to train me in the administration of the State in the same way that I train my son, Tengku Abdullah, so that he is ready to become a Ruler when the time comes.



I put so much effort in bringing up Malaysia as the leader in soccer by injecting professionalism in the game, reorganizing the FAM, etc. I'll not be satisfied until I can see a good international game played in the most professional style.



#### **By HRH the Sultan of Kelantan**

When my turn came up to chair the 117th Meeting of the Rulers' Conference in 1980, I had just been appointed the Sultan of Kelantan. I was quite nervous. With the help of Ayahanda, the Raja of Perlis, I could manage to chair the meeting well.



I used to address the former Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, Dato' Ahmad Zainal Abidin as simply "Keeper". That tradition was continued with Engku Datuk Ibrahim, and I was told by Engku that I'm the only one who calls the Keeper, "Keeper". I'll address the next Keeper as "Keeper".



#### **By HRH the Sultan of Terengganu**

The Rules of the Meeting of the Conference stated that the most junior Ruler will be chosen by the Conference to count the votes in the election of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Although I was not the most junior Ruler, I was chosen

twice to count the votes; once when Perak was elected, and the other, when Negeri Sembilan, the present Yang di-Pertuan Agong was elected. On both occasions, I was the "Returning Officer".



When you talk about "keropok lekor", it must be in connection with Terengganu. Terengganu is rich in fisheries and marine resources. That motivated me to study Marine Fisheries in London way back in the 1950's.



I like photography because it gives me pleasure and a sense of satisfaction when you look at the results. That split second counts a lot in photography. Good photography teaches us to be alert, always in readiness to "shoot".



### By HRH Paduka Seri Sultan of Perak

The difference between sitting on the Bench of the High Court and the Throne of Perak, or for that matter, the Throne of Malaysia, is that in the court, you talk to the lawyers, who argue about the law already made; but if you are on the throne, you argue with politicians about the law to be made.



When I was a young schoolboy, I played hockey for the State of Perak. It happened that my father, the late Sultan Yusuf Izzuddin Shah of Perak was there in a hockey match between Perak and Selangor. Sultan Yusuf did not know that I was there playing for the State. After I scored the first goal, the Sultan asked the official who was sitting behind him "Who was it that scored the goal for Perak?" to which the answer came "Your son, Tuanku".



In 1978, my hair had already turned completely silver grey without a single black hair. At that time, judges must wear wigs when they had to sit on the bench. One day, I forgot to put on the wigs, but there was no difference whether I had one on or not!!



Tun Mohamed Suffian, the then Lord President of the Federal Court of Malaysia said in his convocation speech at the University of Singapore in 1972 on receiving an Honourary Degree of Doctor of Laws that now he was doctor, he can go and practice medicine together with sin seh, bomoh, etc. in Kuala Kangsar, his hometown. Tun had no children. Six years later, Tun Suffian, who was then the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malaya, on behalf of the university, conferred me with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters, and I quoted what he said at the convocation in Singapore at the beginning of my acceptance speech. "Since I am now a doctor, I can practise medicine together with sin seh and bomoh, in Kuala Kangsar your hometown and mine. So, Tun, please come over to my clinic to seek some medical advice, especially on "penyakit mandul (barrenness)". The 2000 crowd laughed, since they knew Tun Suffian was childless.



I had the opportunity of serving in many capacities; Magistrate, President of the Sessions Court, Legal Advisor, Chief Registrar, Judge of the High Court and Federal Court, Chief Justice, Lord President. In education, as an External Examiner, as a member of the Legal Terminology Committee, as Chairman of the Advisory Council on

Higher Education. In sports, as President of the Malaysian Hockey Association, and as Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation, not forgetting the Throne of Perak and the Throne of Malaysia. The most satisfying moments I had was when someone walked up to me and said "Tuanku, you made me what I am today" be he a clerk, a judge, a hockey player or an official at the Istana.



#### By HRH Tunku Naquiyuddin ibni Tuanku Ja'afar

Once when Dato' Abdullah Ali and myself were in a Botanical Garden in Gambia, a wild boar made its way towards us. Although friendly, it looked fierce with its two fangs protruding. We tried to chase it, but it came closer and closer. It was quite terrifying. I then issued the order to Dato' Abdullah. "You climb that tree, and I climb this". Imagine!!! It was all the more frightening as the trees were very small. However, soon afterwards the boar ran off, probably bored by these unfriendly humans!



"During the Emergency, Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, was travelling in a train, accompanied by a British Military Officer. The bullets came from left and right, and the Officer commanded "Bow down Tuanku, take shelter," upon which my grandfather quipped, "I'll never bow down to communist terrorists." He survived and became the first King".



The legendary Thomas Bata, had a collection of thousands of shoes from all over the world. One pair dated back to 6000 years old. I visited the Shoe Museum, and found it very interesting. Later, I asked Mrs. Thomas Bata why there was no "Bata" trade mark on the 6000 year-old shoes, upon which she replied "It was there, you didn't see it".



The Americans address the President of United States as "Mr. President". When we had a private visit to Houston in USA, my father was introduced by the Malaysian Embassy staff to some of the Americans as "May I introduce to you, this is the King of Malaysia." From then onwards, he was referred to as "Mr. King" by the Americans."



We were invited to a party in USA hosted by an American. It happened that there were a few hoteliers in the group. I was introduced as: "This is Tunku Naquiyuddin, The Regent of Negeri Sembilan". One hotelier quipped. "Oh, you are from the Regent. I'm from Hilton."



"Wetback" is a term used to refer to illegal immigrants from Mexico who went to the United States. Malaysians, who have moustaches look very similar to Mexicans. On our flight to Houston, Texas, we were supposed to be received by officials from the Secretary of State's Office. There were 10 of us. Upon arrival, we saw no one from the office, so we walked through the immigration lane. The officials, accompanied by immigration officers finally recognised us, and ushered us to the VIP lounge. The Americans who were still standing in the queue murmured "probably they are wetbacks".



When I was the Second Secretary at the Malaysian Embassy in Paris in 1974, Dato' Abdullah Ali and I were assigned to Morocco to invite the Foreign Minister to attend the OIC Foreign Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Upon arrival at Rabat, we went down from the aircraft holding some souvenirs for the hosts. At the tarmac, we saw a parade put up by the Moroccan Military Force, and I asked the Official who was coming, thinking that it was for a VIP on the same aircraft. The reply was, "The parade is for you, Your Excellency". Without hesitation, we took the salute, marched the line and inspected the Guard-of-Honour, with one hand taking the salute and the other holding the souvenirs.



When I was in Gambia, there was a water-cut. So, we had to use mineral water for shaving and brushing our teeth. It was the most expensive shave.



### **By HE Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin**

I had the benefit of attending the Conference of Rulers in both capacities, as Menteri Besar who accompanied the Ruler, and as the Yang di-Pertua Negeri in which the Chief Minister accompanied me. The same is true with Tun Sakaran Dandai of Sabah.



Not only Malays and Chinese, but also Dayaks, Bajaus, Ibans, Kadazans, Melanaus, have been given the opportunity of becoming Chief Ministers. Federal Ministers came from all races, major or minor, be they Kadazans or Ibans, Bidayuhs or Dayaks. MPs and Senators, include not only the major races, but also Orang Asli and Eurasians. Malaysia is truly a multi-national, multi-cultural, multi-religious society.



I had the opportunity of serving the nation in different capacities: as a government officer, as a politician, as a diplomat, and as a head of state. When I was Menteri Besar of Kedah, I had contacts with UMNO politicians only. But when I was the Governor of Melaka, I had contacts not only with politicians, but also with civil servants, with Ambassadors, with Imams in the mosques, with caddies, with businessmen, and with the presidents of voluntary organizations.



The most interesting visit overseas that I had was to Sumatera. You are treated not only like a state guest, but like a member of their family.



### **By HE Tun Sakaran Dandai**

In 1994, I attended the 167th Conference of Rulers as the Chief Minister accompanying HE Tun Mohd. Said Kruak, then the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah. In 1995, I attended the 169th Conference of Rulers and Dato' Mohd. Salleh Said, the then Chief Minister accompanied me as the Yang di-Pertua Negeri. In 1994, I accompanied the father to the Conference and in 1995 the son accompanied me. What a coincidence!!





\* Sampul Surat Hari Pertama dan Setem adalah tidak mengikut ukuran sempurna  
 \* First Day Cover and Stamps not to scale

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