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**HEADLINE:** SULTAN SALAHUDDIN - A RULER WHO TAKES A KEEN INTEREST IN HIS SUBJECTS' WELFARE

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**BODY:**

KLANG, February 27 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, who was elected by the Conference of Rulers as Malaysia's 11th Yang di-Pertuan Agong yesterday, is a ruler who has always taken a keen interest in his subjects' welfare.

Long before the "hands on" management style of going down to the ground became popular, Sultan Salahuddin was already practising it.

Not long ago, if you saw someone resembling the Sultan cycling in and out of kampungs, don't be surprised to later find out that the person was indeed the Sultan himself.

This speaks volumes of the man who has always been concerned about his subjects and has no problems going down to the grassroots to see for himself the life of the people in the kampungs and far flung islands.

Every year, the Sultan will make it a point to visit Pulau Ketam even though the trip was not exactly a cruise in those days.

Now, while age and health may not permit Sultan Salahuddin, who is 73, to visit every nook and corner of his state as often as before, he still gives a lot of attention to the people's problems.

Only a few weeks ago during Ramadan, the Sultan had raised the plight of squatters and had asked Selangor government enforcement officers not to demolish their houses.

Sultan Salahuddin, the eighth Sultan of Selangor, eldest son of Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj, was born on March 8, 1926 at Istana Bandar, Kuala Langat.

He received his early education at the Pengkalan Batu Malay School here and then studied at the Malay College in Kuala Kangar from 1936 until 1941 when the Japanese occupied Malaya.

He then left for England in 1947 to continue his studies and stayed at the Earl's Court together with Malaysia's former Prime Ministers **Tunku Abdul Rahman** Putra Al-Haj and Tun Abdul Razak. At that time he had been made the Tengku Laksamana of Selangor by his father the Sultan of Selangor.

On his return from England, he joined the State Secretary's Office and was the Inspector of Schools for eight months before taking up a short commission with the Royal Malay Regiment at Port Dickson and was accorded the Queen's Commission with the rank of captain and not long after that he was promoted to major.

He made several private visits to countries in the East to study and acquire a first hand knowledge of the economic and political situations in these countries.

When the Malayan Union crisis broke out in 1946, he also travelled the length and breadth of Malaya to join the people to voice their opposition.

He was appointed the Raja Muda of Selangor on May 13, 1950 at Istana Selangor, Jalan Maxwell, Kuala Lumpur and between then and 1960 he was Regent of Selangor on three occasions.

The announcement of his appointment as the eighth Sultan of Selangor was made on Sept 3, 1960 at Balai Rong, Istana Kota, here, two days after the death of his father.

On June 28, 1961 he and his consort then Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Alhajjah Almarhum Sultan Abdul Aziz were crowned and installed and His Royal Highness took over as the Sultan and Yang di-pertuan of the State of Selangor and its territories.

He was then made an Honorary Captain of the Royal Malaysian Navy in place of his previous appointment as the Honorary Colonel of the Royal Malaysian Air Force, a post he held since 1966.

From his four marriages, the Sultan has 10 children.

His first wife was his cousin Raja Nor Saidatul Ihsan Tengku Badar Shah and she bore him three sons and four daughters -- Tengku Idris Shah, Tengku Sofiah, Tengku Sulaiman Shah Alhaj, Tengku Puteri Datin Paduka Hajjah Zahariah, Tengku Abdul Samad Shah, Tengku Puteri Hajjah Arafiah and Tengku Puteri Aishah.

His second wife Cik Mahiran bore him an only son Tengku Indera Setia Tengku Ahmad Shah.

On March 10, 1956, he married Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Alhaj, the Tengku Ampuan of Selangor, and she gave him two daughters Tengku Puteri Nor Marina and Tengku Puteri Nor Zehan.

Tengku Ampuan Rahimah died on June 27, 1993, at Istana Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and the Sultan then married Cik Puan Besar of Selangor Siti Aishah who was later crowned the Permaisuri with the title of Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Siti Aishah.

Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Siti Aishah was born on Nov 18, 1971 and grew up in Kuala Lumpur.

Her Royal Highness received her early education at the Sekolah Rendah Jalan Gurney and the Sekolah Menengah Puteri Titiwangsa before furthering her studies at the Institut Teknologi Mara, Kota Baharu, Kelantan, in the field of banking.

She married the Sultan of Selangor on May 3, 1990 and was named Tengku Permaisuri Selangor effective from Sept 26, 1998 and crowned on Oct 24, 1998.

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