



## *EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN HAVANA, REPUBLIC OF CUBA NEWSLETTER*

*Volume 1*

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### **We Care Program under the Program Mendampingi Rakyat Malaysia**

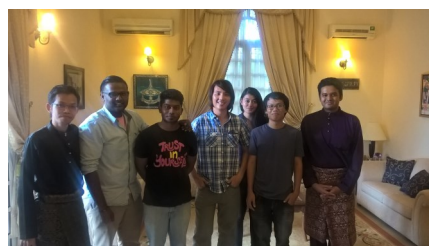
The Embassy paid a visit on Malaysian students in the city of Santa Clara in the central Cuban province of Villa Clara on 2 April 2016. The main objective of the visit was to reach out and engage the \_\_\_ students reading medicine there as well as to keep them posted of the current developments and issues back in Malaysia. As of mid-2016, there were 22 undergraduate medical Malaysian students in Cuba pursuing the 7-year degree under the scholarship of the Cuban government.

During his meeting with the students, Amb Khairi Omar praised their courage and determination in taking up medical studies in Cuba, which is a country far away from Malaysia and much was not known among the students about the island nation and its people. It is indeed a huge sacrifice by the students amidst the challenges they have been facing during the course of their studies towards realising their dreams to become a doctor. On the same note, Amb Khairi inspired all the students to excel in their studies and uphold the image of Malaysia throughout their academic years in Cuba or wherever they are going to serve in the future.



## 2016 HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI CELEBRATION

On the joyous occasion to mark the end of Ramadan 2016, the Malaysian Embassy hosted a Hari Raya Aidilfitri Gathering on 9 July 2016 at the Official Residence of the Ambassador. The gathering was attended by residing Ambassadors in Havana, diplomatic corps, officials of the Cuban government, home-based staff and family members, Malaysian students as well as locally-recruited staff. The event serves to promote Malaysian hospitality and food in a foreign land while celebrating Hari Raya with friends and fellow Malaysians. The guests were served with traditional Malaysian delicacies and home-baked 'kuih raya' prepared by Madam Nor Asikin Abdullah, wife of the Ambassador.



## EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN HAVANA TOOK PART IN THE ASIAN CHARITY BAZAR 2016

The Embassy of Malaysia took part in the Asian Charity Bazaar on Friday, 22 April 2016 at the Casa De Lamistad in Havana. The event was organised by the wives of Asian Ambassadors, formally known as the Asian Ladies Association (ALA). Most of the Asian Embassies resident in Cuba showcased defining food and craft from their respective countries, either for a mere display or for visitors to purchase. The event presented visitors with an opportunity to sample various countries' exotic foods, to learn more about these countries' culture through craft and art items on display and above all created awareness about what ALA has been doing to promote the image of Asian countries including Malaysia in Cuba.

The Malaysian contingent rose to the occasion by making sure that a large number of visitors stop by its stall and more importantly purchase the curry puffs, kerepek, and assorted 'kuih muih' delicately prepared for the event. Flyers about Malaysia were also distributed to promote Malaysia and create awareness about our beloved country among the visitors. Proceeds from the sale during the bazaar were partly donated to local charities.



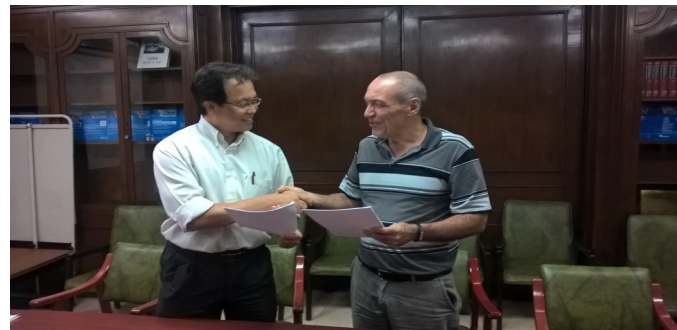
## University Science Malaysia Engaged A Collaboration With Finlay Institute

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) undertook a working visit to Havana, Cuba on 20 -22 March 2016. The working visit was led by YBhg. Professor Dr Norazmi Mohd Nor, Director of the Institute in Molecular Medicine and Encik Khairul Anuar Che Azmi, USM's legal advisor as the accompanying officer. The purpose of the visit was to further discuss with Finlay Institute (Finlay Institute is a Cuba's scientific organization dedicated to vaccine research and production) on the collaborative research, development and commercialization development of halal vaccine. The negotiation between USM and Finlay Institute was initially agreed to enter and execute the Collaboration Agreement on 9 February 2010 and subsequently on the Joint Development Agreement on 27 December 2013. In these agreements, both parties agreed to collaborate through the sharing

of their respective technologies and expertise to jointly develop halal technologies that are mutually beneficial to the Parties. USM and Finlay also established to formalise their collaboration and to begin looking at the terms and conditions upon which the collaboration would be carried out and the new technologies would be developed and potentially commercialised by the Parties. In addition to the two agreements, USM and Finlay Institute also wished to collaborate in further development and possible commercialization of other HALAL vaccines and other Finlay's technology (ies) that may mutually benefit the Parties.

The 3-day intensive discussions between both parties had brought about another dimension to the agreements. As a result, USM and Finlay Institute agreed to ink a Research and Development Agreement to produce a Halal

Masterseed that would eventually produce a vaccine. The Halal Masterseed shall be characterized in accordance to the international standard. Both parties also agreed that subsequent Halal Masterseed would be developed within the 5 years duration of the Project and Halal certification from JAKIM should be sought.



## Malaysian Students Who Are pursuing Their Medical Studies in Republic of Cuba

There are 22 Malaysian students in several provinces in Cuba pursuing medical studies. For this year, 10 Malaysian students received their graduation scrolls from the Cuban government after 7 years of studies in Cuba. The students are under the government of Cuba scholarships which is called the Latin American Medical School, "ELAM" in Spanish.

This scholarship was conceived by former President Fidel Castro following Hurricanes George and Mitch, which devastated parts of Central America and the Caribbean in 1998. After sending 1,000 doctors to hard-hit communities, Cuba decided to offer long-term help by providing medical training to students in those countries. As of today, thousands were accepted from around the world including 22 Malaysian students. As the pre requirement to enter the program, students must pass an entry test, and have at least a high-school diploma and a solid academic record.

Embassy of Havana respects the spirit and courage taken by Malaysian students who are pursuing their medical studies in the island. The medical courses and the environment itself are tough. With limited internet connection and proper facilities, all of them strive to survive and indeed performed well in their studies. For record, Cuban medical doctors are well trained and highly demanded in the Caribbean nation.



### Courtesy Calls Received By The Embassy of Malaysia

Throughout the first half of the year, the Embassy of Malaysia has received Malaysian and non-Malaysian guests who were attended to and entertained befitting of the usual Malaysian hospitality and charm. They included:-

Courtesy call by His Excellency Masaru Watanabe, Ambassador of Japan on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016;



Courtesy call by Mrs Abigail Tan, the Director of Business Development, Investments, Asset Management, IGB Corporation Berhad on 6 May 2016



Courtesy call by His Excellency Loro Horta, Ambassador of Timor Leste on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016



Courtesy call by His Excellency Dato Abdul Ghafar Ismail, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations on 20 June 2016



Courtesy call by His Excellency Alfred Tanduk Palembang, Ambassador of Indonesia on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016;



Courtesy call by His Excellency Halim Majeed, Ambassador of Guyana on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016



Courtesy call by His Excellency Abdoul Kader Toure, Ambassador of the Republic of Mali on 4<sup>th</sup> July

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## Passport Application Renewal Requirements

Passport is an important document therefore it must be in the safe custody of the holder at all times. All lost passport applications must go through a thorough investigation by **Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia** before any consideration can be made for its replacement.

The procedures are as follows;

- i. A complete Form Im. 42 – Pin 1/97 which can be downloaded from the Malaysian Immigration [www.imi.gov.my](http://www.imi.gov.my). The form should be printed on both sides of A4 size paper.
- ii. Copy of your old passport (all pages). It is not necessary to send the original passport;
- iii. Copy of your Birth Certificate (if any);
- iv. Copy of IC (Malaysian Identity Card);
- v. 3 photos (passport size 3.5x5cm with white background)
- vi. Cover Letter regarding the renewal of your passport (for applicants living in Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti & Nicaragua)
- vii. A self-addressed DHL envelope already prepaid in to facilitate the process of sending new passport (for applicants living in Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti & Nicaragua).
- viii. Processing fee is RM200.00 or equivalent to EURO (Current exchange rate).

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Note: The above documents (ii, iii and iv) shall be certified by the Notary Public

\*\*All fees can be transferred to the Embassy's bank account;

<b>Name of the Bank :</b>	<b>Banco Financiero Internacional S.A.</b>
<b>Address :</b>	<b>Edificio Sierra Maestra, 1st Avenue and Street, Miramar, Playa, Havana, Cuba</b>
<b>Name of Account :</b>	<b>Embassy of Malaysia, Havana</b>
<b>Currency :</b>	<b>Euro Only</b>
<b>Account Number :</b>	<b>0300000003115744 or Swift Code: B F I C C U H H</b>

All the above documents (once completed) have to be forwarded by courier to the Embassy of Malaysia in Havana, Cuba (for applicants living in Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti & Nicaragua).

All applications will be forwarded to Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia, Putrajaya, Malaysia for processing and approval. The estimated time of process is between 3-6 months.

Please follow the instruction carefully

## Requirement to Apply Visa

Visitors **MUST** obtain Visa without Reference or Visa with Reference at the nearest Malaysian Embassies / Consulates before entering Malaysia.

### 1. Application for a Visa without Reference:

Documents required for the application of a visa without reference (approval of visa is given by High Commission of Malaysia) are;

Original passport,  
Two (2) photocopies of the applicant's passport,  
Two (2) photocopies of the visa application form ([Form IMM.47](#)),  
Two (2) passport size photographs of the applicant (White Background),  
Original and two (2) photocopies of the ticket (confirmed and returned ticket),  
Bank statement / traveller cheque,  
Invitation letter (if any) and  
Payment of visa fee.

Note: Visa Without Reference is required for the purpose of a social visit.

### 2. Application for a Visa with Reference:

This visa is issued for those traveling on courses, business or investment only.

Trip **MUST** be sponsored by a local high level individual or a local business company which invites them to Malaysia (the sponsoring company need to be well established and is required to submit copies of Form 9, 24 and 49 to the Immigration Department of Malaysia).

The sponsor **MUST** deposit RM2000.00 per person to the Immigration Department of Malaysia as a security deposit.

Visitors will be given a maximum 30 days of stay with no extension allowed.

Required document;

- Original passport,
  - Two (2) photocopies of the applicant's passport,
  - Two (2) photocopies of the visa application form ([Form IMM.47](#)),
  - Two (2) passport size photographs of the applicant (White Background),
  - Original and two (2) photocopies of the ticket (confirmed and returned ticket),
  - Bank statement / traveller cheque,
  - Invitation letter (if any),
  - Payment of visa fee and
  - Reference from Immigration of Malaysia.
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## **CONTACT THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA**

**Embassy of Malaysia in Havana, Republic of Cuba  
No. 6612, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 68<sup>th</sup> street  
Miramar, Playa, Havana, Cuba**

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