

NEWSLETTER

EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA TO THE HOLY SEE

APRIL - AUGUST 2016

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Inside this issue:

- Arrival of the first resident Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See
- Message from His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok
- Meeting with Prelates of The Holy See
- Asia Group Meeting
- Engagements with Malaysian diaspora in Vatican City
- Engagement with Local Media
- Meeting with the Jesuit Community in Vatican City
- Upcoming Events

Arrival of the First Resident Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See

His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok is the first Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See. He received his Letters of Credentials from His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on 17 March 2016. He presented his Letters of Credence to His Holiness Pope Francis on 9 June 2016 at the Papal's Personal Biblioteque in Vatican City. He was accompanied by his spouse Puan Sri Diana Dompok, close family members and all members of the staff of the Embassy to witness the momentous occasion.



Prior to his appointment as the Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See, Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok was in politics for 30 years and has served in a number of important Ministerial portfolios both at the State as well as the Federal level. He was the former Chief Minister of Sabah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Diplomatic relations between Malaysia and The Holy See was formally established on 27 July 2011. Malaysia was the 179th country that established diplomatic relations with The Holy See. Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok is the 83rd resident Ambassador accredited to The Holy See. He is also concurrently accredited to the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Malta.

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MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY TAN SRI BERNARD GILUK DOMPOK



Greetings from Rome!

2016 marks a historical milestone for Malaysia with the establishment of the Embassy Malaysia to The Holy See. I am honoured to be appointed by the Government of Malaysia to be the first resident Ambassador to the Holy See.

Diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Holy See was formally established on 27 July 2011. YAB Prime Minister conveyed the decision of the Government during a working visit to Vatican City on 18 of July 2011. It was my privilege to witness the meeting and subsequent proclamation of diplomatic relations. Malaysia is the 179th country to establish diplomatic ties with the Holy See.

As the first Resident Ambassador to the Holy See, I had the opportunity to meet up with colleagues from the diplomatic

community of The Holy See. From my meetings with them, I am more than ever convinced that Malaysia indeed has a role to play in the world conversation on harmony within countries which have to contend with the challenges of multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi racial societies.

Our presence here at the Vatican provides the opportunity to share experiences and benefit from them. Discussions with the Vatican officials likewise convey the Holy See's good impression of Malaysia and the steps taken to rise to the challenges of the country's diversity.

I would like to thank my team for putting together the various events, initiatives, activities and programmes undertaken by the Embassy into this inaugural edition of the Newsletter. I hope readers will enjoy reading it!

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone *Selamat Hari Malaysia* and may we continue to be united as togetherness is at the heart of it all.

“ If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other”

~ Mother Teresa~

Thank you, Grazie and God bless.

Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok
Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See

MEETING WITH PRELATES OF THE HOLY SEE

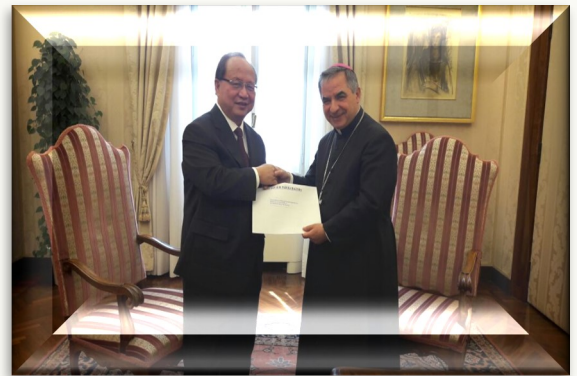


Meeting between His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok and Most Reverend Monsignor Jose Avelino Bettencourt, Head of Protocol of the Holy See on 18 April 2016.

The Meeting was arranged by the Secretariat of State of The Holy See to brief new Ambassadors accredited to The Holy See on the organization and structure of the Roman Curia, duties that are expected of diplomatic corps. accredited to The Holy See and dates scheduled for presentation of Credential to His Holiness Pope Francis.

Meeting between His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok and His Grace Archbishop Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Substitute of the Secretariat of State on 21 April 2016.

During the Meeting, His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard presented a copy of his Credentials to His Grace Arch. Becciu, Substitute of the Secretariat of State.



Meeting between His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok and His Grace Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with State on 25 April 2016. Both sides discussed areas of possible cooperation with the establishment of the Malaysia - Holy See relations.

Courtesy call on Reverend Father Federico Lombardi, Director of the Press Office of The Holy See on 6 June 2016.

Fr. Lombardi was the spokesman for the Vatican.



MEETING WITH PRELATES OF THE HOLY SEE



Courtesy call on Most Reverend Monsignor Paolo Borgia, Assessor for General Affairs, Secretariat of State on 7 June 2016.

Most Rev. Mons. Borgia was appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis as Assessor for General Affairs on 4 March 2016. He serves as the deputy chief of staff to Archbishop Giovanni Angelo Becciu.

Meeting between His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok and His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State on 9 June 2016.

The Meeting was held after the presentation of Credential to His Holiness Pope Francis at the Secretariat of State, Vatican City.



Courtesy call on His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, Prefect of The Secretariat for Economy, Secretariat of State on 15 June 2016.

Cardinal Pell was appointed in February 2014 as the first cardinal-prefect of the newly created Secretariat for Economy responsible for annual budget of the Holy See and the Vatican.

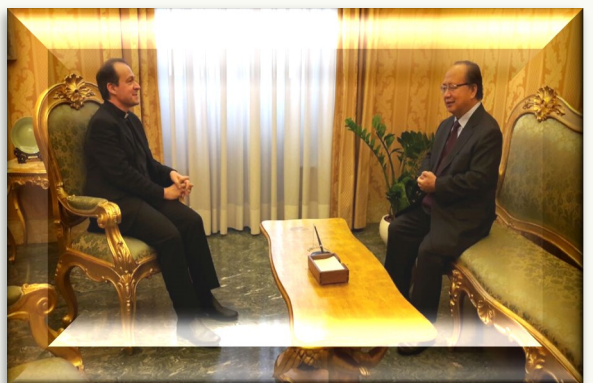
Both sides discussed potential areas of collaboration between Malaysia and the Holy See focussing in the field of education and inter-faith religious dialogue.



Courtesy call on Most Reverend Monsignor Antoine Camilleri, Under-Secretary for Relations with States, Secretary of State on 16 June 2016.

Monsignor Camilleri was appointed by His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on 22 February 2013 as Under-Secretary for Relations with States, effectively the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Holy See.

Both sides exchanged views on issues related to education, inter-religious dialogue and various current international issues.



MEETING WITH PRELATES OF THE HOLY SEE



Courtesy call on His Eminence Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education on 22 June 2016.

Cardinal Versaldi was appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis on 31 March 2015 as the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education.

The Meeting exchanged views on the various initiatives undertaken by the Prefecture in the development and promotion of missionary education.

Courtesy call on His Eminence Cardinal Fernando Filoni on 4 August 2016.

Cardinal Filoni is currently the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in the Roman Curia since his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI on 10 May 2011.



ASIA LUNCH GROUP MEETING



The second Asia Group Meeting for 2016 was held on 20 April 2016. His Excellency Mr. Kim Kyung-surk, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to The Holy See was elected as the new Dean for the Asia group.

The lunch was hosted by H.E. Kim Kyung-surk, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to The Holy See. The guest of honour from the Holy See was His Eminence Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, President of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State and President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State.

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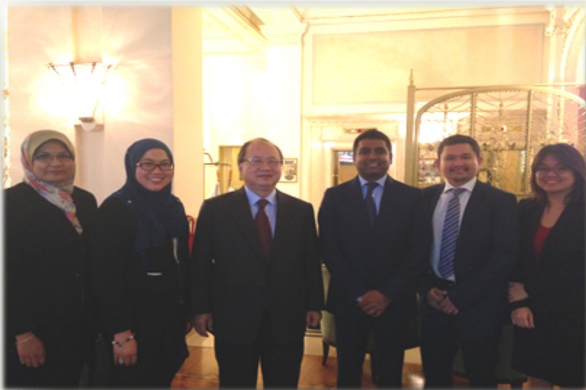
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ENGAGEMENTS WITH MALAYSIAN DIASPORA IN VATICAN CITY



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok hosted a lunch for Malaysian students mainly priests and nuns from Malaysia on 7 May 2016. During the lunch, Tan Sri Bernard took the opportunity to brief the students on roles and functions of the newly established Embassy.

To-date, there were 15 Malaysian students studying in the various Universities under the Vatican City.



MIDA, MATRADE and Tourism Malaysia officials based in Milan called on His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok on 11 May 2016.

These Government Agencies monitors trade, investment and promotional of tourism in the Republic of Albania and Malta of which Tan Sri Bernard is concurrent accredited to.



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok met Mr. Wan Norhaziki Wan Abdul Halim, Phd. Candidate in comparative religion on 25 July 2016.

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ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL MEDIA



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard engaged Vatican Radio which is the main electronic mass media by the Vatican City. Prior to his presentation of Credentials, Tan Sri Bernard was interviewed by Senior Journalist, Ms. Linda Bordoni.

On 8 August 2016, Reverend Father Thomas Chong, a Malaysian priest who works at the Vatican Radio calls on His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard. He heads the Mandarin Section of the Vatican Radio.

VISIT TO THE JESUIT COMMUNITY IN VATICAN CITY



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok paid a visit to the Jesuit Community of Saint Peter Canisius in Vatican on 8 August 2016 and joined the community for lunch. The active Jesuits of the community mainly serve at the Vatican Radio and various decasteries of the Holy See in Vatican, while the rest are retired Jesuits who dedicated their whole lives to missions in Rome and the Vatican, especially in education of higher learning, among them is His Eminence Cardinal Albert Vanhoye, S.J., a renowned biblical scholar (pic: the one using a walker, who is 93 this year).

The visit was conducted to better comprehend the various initiatives undertaken by the Jesuit Order in the Catholic network and to touch base and introduce the newly established Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See. The visit was also part of Malaysia's appreciation to the contributions of the Catholic Church to the development of education in Malaysia which had benefitted not only the first few generations of Malaysians back in the earlier years, but also now. Prior to the visit to the Jesuit Community, the Ambassador had visited the La-Salle Brothers and Brothers of Saint Gabriel and will visit the Mill Hill Fathers in Rome soon.

His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Dompok expressed his sincere gratitude to the Jesuit Community for their dedication in providing community service to the various societies regardless of race, religion and background, in particular to the marginalised and vulnerable societies around the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

Date:

4 September 2016, Sunday

Venue:

Vatican Basilica



Hari Sukan Negara Peringkat Malawakil Holy See

Date:

8 October 2016, Saturday

Venue:

Villa Borghese Park



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