

THE MILESTONES

- Sri Lankans visiting Malaysia in 2016 recorded an increase of about 40% compared to last year (over 60,000 entry visas were issued).
- Although the High Commission has moved to new office, the contact details remain.
- The eVISA for Sri Lankans will be implemented as early as end January 2017.

OUR NEW "HOME"



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The High Commission's office has been relocated to Colombo 07 effective from 1 December 2016 after having been at Bagatalle Road, Colombo 03 since 2001 (15 years). The Raja Muda of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, officially opened the new office at No 8, Rosmead Place. The brief ceremony in-

cludes the reciting of prayers and the playing of the Malaysia national anthem. A delegation from Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), which is on a seven-day fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka, also attended the event. The High Commission of Malaysia in Sri Lanka was established in 1965 and it was first operated from

Galle Face before moving to several other locations, including Alfred Place and Ward Place up to 1986. From 1987, the Mission operated from Horton Palace, then moved to Jawatta Road in 1991, Kynsey Road in 1993 and finally in Bagatalle Road from 2001.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT TO MALAYSIA



President of Sri Lanka, Maithripala Sirisena was on an official visit to Malaysia from 15 to 17 December 2016. The official visit witnessed the signing of five memorandum of understanding covering tourism related activities; cooperation in the field of youth development; recruitment, em-

ployment and repatriation of workers; field of culture, arts and heritage; and agriculture scientific research and technical cooperation. In promoting trade, the two countries agreed to explore the possibility of initiating a Malaysia-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. Malaysia and Sri Lanka also reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral

trade and investment cooperation, and to deepen their economic engagement for mutual benefits. Hon. President Maithripala Sirisena also had an audience with Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agung, Sultan Muhammad V at the Istana Negara before his visit ended.

H.R.H. Crown Prince of Perlis led the 12th UNIMAP Educational Tour



The Raja Muda of Perlis, DTYM Tuanku Syed Fajrudin Putra Ibni Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail which is also Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP) Chancellor led the university delegation for the 12th UNIMAP Educational Tour 2016 which endured from 28th November to 5 December 2016.

The program that involves 25 members of the Student Representative Council and

a few UNIMAP senior officials took the student leaders to a few top universities in Sri Lanka such as University of Colombo, University of Moratuwa, University of Peradeniya and International College of Business & Technology (ICBT). Apart from promoting UNIMAP to the Sri Lankan students, the receiving universities were also presented with the Letter of Intent (LOI) for collaboration by UNIMAP. Prior to Sri Lanka, the group was in Maldives where they handed the Letter of Intent (LOI) to collaborate with National University of Maldives.

The UNIMAP Educational Tour was introduced in 2005 and its main objective is to

expose UNIMAP students with foreign countries education system and at the same time to open door for greater collaboration between UNIMAP and foreign universities.



“Diplomacy is the velvet glove that cloaks the fist of power.”
— Robin Hobb

Sharp salute!

At the invitation of the Sri Lankan Police, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Khalid Bin Abu Bakar participated in a conference for the high ranking police officials entitled “Future Policing: Prospects and Challenges for South Asia” from 4th to 6th October 2016. The event that was jointly organized by the Sri Lankan Police, Regional

Centre for Strategic Studies and in collaboration with United Nations was also coincided with the 150th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Police. YBhg. Tan Sri IGP presented a paper called “Community Policing: Malay-

sia’s Perspective” for the conference as part of his program.



Court of Appeal President in town!



Court of Appeal President, Tan Sri Md Raus Sharif was

among the high ranking judiciary figures in Asia who attended the 29th Golden Jubilee

Conference of LAWASIA for the third time in Colombo

from 12 to 15 August 2016. The event also marked the 50th jubilee of the organisation’s formation in 1966. LAWASIA, the law association for Asia and the Pacific provides a discussion forum that promotes cross-jurisdictional exchanges of legal information and education in the Asia Pacific region.

Stranded...

A total of 255 Malaysians were stranded at Bandara-naike International Airport in the morning of the Boxing Day. The groups that were

managed by multiple travel agents were on their way home after performing umrah in Saudi Arabia. The chartered flight that they

have boarded had to be re-routed from its original line as eastern airspace of India was closed by the authority due to missile testing. The High Commission extended the much needed assistance for the pilgrims such as medical attention, facilitating wheel chair for the sick and elderly pilgrims and also negotiating with the airport authority for their speedy departure. We also helped them to the extent of arranging for the air ticket replacement from Malindo Air without any additional charges (16 pilgrims were missed the connecting flight in the afternoon of 26th December to Kota Bharu).

Sri Lanka is known as both the ‘pearl of the Indian Ocean’ and the ‘teardrop of India’ due to its shape.



Bilateral Trade Session with Sri Lanka National Chamber of Commerce



High Commissioner was the Chief Guest and Key Speaker for the Bilat-

eral Trade Session with Sri Lanka National Chamber of Commerce held on 24th November 2016. High Commissioner briefed the participants on the current bilateral trade environment, investment opportunities/services, products in demand and any other important infor-

mation pertaining to trade and business between Malaysia and Sri Lanka. There was also interactive slot between High Commissioner and the participants where few substantive questions with regard to the trade/business/investment between the two countries were posted

Youth Empowerment and Motivation Workshop

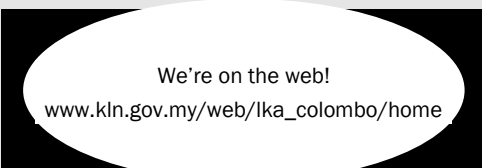
High Commissioner of Malaysia, HE Wan Zaidi Wan Abdullah officiated the closure of the Youth Empowerment and Motivation Workshop organised by Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam (DMDI) in Colombo on 25 September 2016. The High Commissioner delivered his speech and presented certificates to over 100 participants of the Workshop.



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HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA
In Colombo, Sri Lanka

MISSION STATEMENT

The High Commission of Malaysia in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in line with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' vision to be a premier foreign service that contributes towards Malaysia's aspirations, is entrusted to carry out the implementation of the Ministry's Strategic Plan 2016-2020, and is hereby committed:

- To uphold Malaysia's sovereignty and to promote Malaysia's interests in Sri Lanka and in Maldives;
- To foster close and friendly relations with the peoples, the host governments, agencies, and the private sectors of Sri Lanka and Maldives;
- To encourage, promote and facilities economic, trade and investment exchanges between Malaysia and Sri Lanka and with Maldives;
- To provide and disseminate accurate and sufficient information on Malaysia covering political, economic and social matters in Sri Lanka and Maldives;
- To provide efficient and effective protocol, immigration and other consular service within its mandate to facilitate economic and social interaction; and
- To carry out promotional and cooperational activities that can mutually beneficial to the enhancement of the bilateral relations.

Stateless woman living in Lanka for 60 years may finally return to Malaysia

After being a stateless person for 60 years in Sri Lanka, Siti Fatimah Akbar has finally seen a glimmer of hope of returning to her country of birth, with assistance from the Malaysian government. The 72-year-old woman is thrilled that she will be able to set her foot in Malaysia, the beloved country that she left when she was 12.

Siti Fatimah was among a handful of Malaysians who attended a dinner in conjunction with Raja Muda of Perlis, Fadzilul Putra Jamalullail's visit, with a delegation from Universiti Malaysia Perlis

(UniMAP) for the 'Jelajah Ilmu' programme, to Sri Lanka.

She said after becoming an adult, there was a point in her life when she thought of

returning to Malaysia, but her plans came to a halt, as she did not have the relevant documents to prove her citizenship. "I'm grateful, as the Malaysian High Commission Office here is very concerned over my plight and [they have] put so much effort into [searching for] evidence suggesting that I'm actually a Malaysian.

Her 47-year-old son, Ibrahim Shahood, said his mother often talks about Malaysia and really wants to return home. He also said Siti Fatimah still has close relatives in Perak and Selangor, and they used to visit her in Colombo.



Siti Fatimah Akbar