



SABAIDEE

# E-NEWSLETTER

EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

No. 2/2017: Special Edition for Ramadhan and Eidul Fitri 2017

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Alhamdulillah, Ramadhan arrived again this year beginning on 27 May 2017. In the holy month for Muslims, Embassy of Malaysia joined hand with PERWAKILAN Vientiane in hosting as well as participating in various activities with the aim of fostering warm relations with the local and Muslim communities as well as to promote Malaysian food to the Lao government officials, members of the diplomatic corps as well as Malaysians residing in the Lao PDR. **(Continue in page 2).**



Officials of the Embassy & their spouses during the Hari Raya Open House Celebration.

..... view during the Food Bazaar organised by Embassy & PERWAKILAN Vientiane during the month of Ramadhan.



Food Bazaar was one of the activities organised by the Embassy and PERWAKILAN during the fasting month. It took place on 12 June 2017. The event was held in the compound of Malaysian Embassy with the participation of eight (8) stalls manned by local food operators as well as two (2) stalls under the Malaysian Embassy and PERWAKILAN Vientiane.

Donations in the form of food were handed over to 83 deserved Muslim families to mark the spirits of compassion, sharing and caring in line with the teaching of Islam.

The presence of more than 500 people at the Food Bazaar marked the success of the event.

Officials of the Embassy and/or members of PERWAKILAN Vientiane also organised/participated in various other activities in the month of Ramadhan, namely:

i. Breaking Fast hosted by H.E. Mohd Aini Atan and spouse for all officials, staff of the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane and few invitees on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Ramadhan (27 May); **(Continue in page 3)**.



... ariel view of the Food Bazaar.



... view at the Food Bazaar



... breaking fast hosted by H.E. Amb. & spouse



... Maghrib, Isyak and Terawih prayers after breaking fast at Rumah Malaysia

ii. Other similar breaking fast events - hosted by Defence Attaché, Colonel Mohd Mahmud Ahmad and spouse on 8 June 2017; Third Secretary, Sdri. Siti Rahayu Sam Seli on 10 June 2017; and Staff Assistant, Staff Sgt. Salnizam Kipli on 15 June 2017.

iii. Officials of Malaysian Embassy donated USD750 to Al-Azhar Mosque, Vientiane, to bear the cost of breaking fast for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Ramadhan at the Mosque. Embassy Officials also joined the local Muslim communities during the breaking fast at Al-Azhar Mosque on the mentioned dates; **(Continue in page 4).**



... at Defence Attaché's house



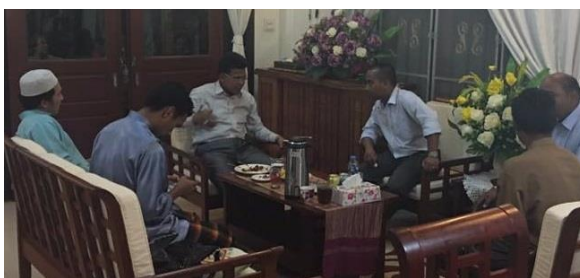
... breaking fast at Al-Azhar Mosque donated by Embassy Officials



... group photo at Defence Attaché's house



... breaking fast at Sdri. Siti Rahayu's house



... breaking fast at Staff Sgt. Salnizam Kipli's house



iv. Donation of groceries to selected 40 Muslim families, co-organised by RHB Bank, Lao PDR and the Malaysian Embassy, held at Four Seasons Restaurant on 15 June 2017;

v. Attending breaking fast invitation hosted by Amb. of Indonesia and Spouse on 1 June 2017; and

vi. Attending breaking fast invitations hosted by (a) RHB Bank, Lao PDR on 5 June, (b) by Flavours and Spices Restaurant on 20 June; and (c) by Mercure Hotel on 21 June 2017.



Donation to 40 Muslim families by RHB Bank, Lao PDR



... breaking fast at Amb. of Indonesia's house



.. breaking fast hosted by RHB Bank, Lao PDR



... breaking fast at Flavours & Spices as well as at Mercure Hotel

The joyous month of Syawal, also known as "Aidilfitri", arrived on the 25 June 2017.

For the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR, the Open House for Hari Raya was celebrated at the compound of Rumah Malaysia on 10 July 2017.

More than 400 invited guests comprising of MFA officials, Alumni of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Malaysian community residing in the Lao PDR as well invited local Lao community attended the event.



Indeed, it has been the best "get-together" event for all to enjoy a variety of special Malaysian dishes, prepared for those presence for them to experience the culture of giving and sharing.



... with officials of MFA and members of the Diplomatic Corps



Preparatory stage: buying groceries ...



... home cooking done by officials and spouses.



... doing backdrop for Hari Raya Open House



... Hari Raya Open House hosted by the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, Lao PDR

Other activities organised/participated by officials of the Embassy and/or members of PERWAKILAN in this Hari Raya's month, include:

- i. Attending Open House celebration hosted by the Ambassador of Brunei and Spouse on 27 June 2017;
- ii. Attending Open House celebration hosted by the Ambassador of Indonesia and Spouse on 29 June 2017; and
- iii. Hari Raya Open House hosted by Defence Attaché, Colonel Mohd Mahmud Ahmad and Spouse on 14 July 2017.



... scenes at the Hari Raya Open House hosted by Defence Attaché, Colonel Mohd Mahmud Ahmad.



Hari Raya Open House hosted by Amb. of Brunei.



Hari Raya Open House hosted by Amb. of Indonesia.

## THE LAUNCHING OF NEGARAKU EXPRESSION PROGRAMME

On 18 March 2017, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak launched the "*Ekspresi Negaraku*" (Negaraku Expression) programme at Dataran Putrajaya. The programme, aimed at showcasing Malaysia's multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-religious unity will allow Malaysians to demonstrate their feelings and expression for the country.

The Prime Minister, in launching the programme said, "***Patriotism is the foundation and main element for a strong identity which we need to foster if we want to be a nation that is peaceful, harmonious and united, "... This is the country of our birth, the place where we toddled when we were small, were schooled and grew up in, earn a living as adults and when the time comes, we will be laid to rest here, where we were born,***".



# NEGARAKU

Among the initiatives under the Negaraku programme include a national arts competition, contribution of story, poster competition, art exhibition and using Negaraku logo in all the official government correspondence. If you have an interesting and patriotic story to share, about a Malaysian experience, encounter or interaction, you can share at <http://www.negaraku.com>.

In this regard, the "Ekspresi Negaraku" campaign should be supported by all Malaysians, irrespective of race, since its main objective is to help inculcate the spirit of patriotism, including Malaysians abroad. In conjunction with this year's National Day, *Ekspresi Negaraku* is an appropriate platform to promote the "Negaraku" initiative.

### Muslims in the Lao PDR

Muslims are a small minority in Buddhist majority land-locked country of the Lao PDR. They constitute only 0.01% of the total population, mainly visible in the capital city, Vientiane.

The Muslim community is mostly engaged in food related business and retailing market.

There are two (2) mosques in the Lao PDR, both are located in Vientiane Capital. Jamia' Mosque, is located in a prestigious central neighbourhood, just behind the Nam Phu Fountain. The design of Jamia' Mosque is based on Mughal style, mostly frequented by local Indian Muslims.



Another mosque is Azhar Mosque, locally known as "Masjid Cambodia", located in Chantabouly District. This Mosque is frequented by local Muslims originated from Cambodia, numbering around 200 families.



... with some members of the Alumni of Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) attending the Hari Raya Open House at Rumah Malaysia



*We, the officials and staff of the Embassy of Malaysia in Vientiane, wish to express our gratitude and thanks to all Malaysians residing in the Lao PDR, the government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, as well as the local community for all assistance extended to us which in turn have tremendously make our stay in Vientiane meaningful, memorable and enriching.*



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