



E- NEWSLETTER

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HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA



“EID MUBARAK” FROM PRETORIA

The High Commission of Malaysia in Pretoria celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri on Wednesday, 6 July 2016. Home-Based Staff and their families gathered at the Chancery building at 0900 hours for the recitation of *takbir*, followed by the prayer. The special sermon was delivered by High Commissioner Dato' Badruddin Ab Rahman. A group of 15 Malaysian students in South Africa who were on holiday were also present.

Although Hari Raya was not a national holiday here, the atmosphere was alive within the small Malaysian community in Pretoria, when everyone dressed up colorfully for the occasion. The voice of children's laughter, "endless" photo sessions and Hari Raya songs that came on air once a year brought about the Raya mood to all.

An array of mouth-watering dishes associated with Hari Raya such as *ketupat*, *rendang* and *lodeh* courtesy of Perwakilan members were truly enjoyed by everyone present. The gathering ended past 1400 hours.



Malawakil Pretoria in Brief

Informal ties between Malaysia and South Africa began since the apartheid era, when Malaysia became a strong supporter of the anti-apartheid movement.

On 13 September 1992, following the dismantling of apartheid in the country, Malaysia established its liaison office in Johannesburg. Subsequently, the diplomatic relation between the two countries was formalised on 8 December 1993.

In 1994, Malaysia upgraded its office to High Commission and relocated it to Pretoria, the administrative capital of the Republic of South Africa.

The other countries under the purview of the High Commission of Malaysia in Pretoria are Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique and Swaziland.

ASEAN SPORT AND FAMILY DAY



Officers and staff of the High Commission and their family members gathered at the Pretoria East Primary School to take part in the ASEAN Sport Day on Saturday, 14th May 2016. All other six ASEAN Missions in Pretoria namely Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam were also involved in this annual programme, coordinated by the High Commission of Singapore.

Participants formed teams to compete in tug-of-war, volleyball, sack race (for children), darts (for Heads of Mission and Spouse) and karaoke. Another event, chairball, was cancelled due to the rain. The format this year was different from previous years'. There were no country teams but teams were comprised of participants from different ASEAN countries.

At lunch time, participants helped themselves with an array of ASEAN cuisine. Malaysia contributed *nasi lemak* with fried chicken and curry puffs prepared by PERWAKILAN. Participants truly enjoyed the ASEAN Sports Day which is a rare opportunity for members of the ASEAN missions here to meet. The event has also further strengthened the *esprit de corps* among the ASEAN mission in Pretoria.



OFFICIAL VISITS

From Malaysia

1 to 5 February – Mr. T. Shanmugam, Secretary of the National Wages Consultative Council presented papers at a symposium in Johannesburg.

8 to 12 February – Mr. Saharuddin Mahamud, National Audit Dept. officer attended Intl. Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions meeting in Pretoria.

29 February to 5 March – Capability Assessment Visit of Dato' Junaidah Kamaruddin, Deputy Secretary-General of Defence Ministry in Pretoria.

6 to 9 April - Datuk Musa Yusof, Senior Director of Tourism Malaysia led Malaysia's delegation to the Africa Travel Mart in Cape Town.

5 to 11 June – Study visit of officers from the Finance Ministry and Royal Malaysia Customs Dept. in Johannesburg.

To Malaysia

31 May to 2 June - HRH Queen Khontaphi Nomsa Matsebula of Swaziland attended the PERMATA International Conference in KL.

MPOC at Africa's Big Seven

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) participated in the "Africa's Big Seven" which took place at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, from 19 to 21 June 2016. The event was considered as the biggest international exhibition for food and beverages industry in Africa. This year it attracted the participation of companies from 22 countries.

Africa's Big Seven is one of the important platforms and a focal point for Malaysian palm oil industry to establish new business contacts and to seek new market opportunity for their products in the sub-Saharan Africa. For 2016, Sime Darby Hudson & Knight and Premium Vegetable Oils Sdn Bhd had jointly participated with MPOC for the event. MPOC's 36 square meter pavilion had a showcase of palm fruit bunch, palm oil food and non-food products, as well as palm olein packaging for various African markets. MPOC also took this opportunity to disseminate technical and nutritional information of palm oil.

Several enquiries related to supply of palm oil related products have been received over the three day show. All business enquiries and leads have been passed on to Sime Darby Hudson and Knight and Premium Vegetable Oils Sdn Bhd.

High Commissioner of Malaysia, Dato' Badruddin Ab Rahman, and his officers visited MPOC's pavilion on 20 June 2016. They were received and briefed by En. Kamal Azmi Kamarudin, Regional Manager of MPOC.



High Commissioner Dato' Badruddin Ab Rahman and other visitors at the MPOC's pavilion.



Dato' Badruddin being briefed by En. Kamal Azmi Kamarudin, Regional Manager of MPOC

Tourism Malaysia at African Travel Mart



The 3rd annual World Travel Market Africa (WTM Africa), which forms part of Africa Travel Week, concluded on Friday, 8 April 2016, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).

The delegation from Tourism Malaysia was headed by Datuk Musa Yusof (Senior Director, Africa and Asia) as well as local tour operators on the floor at the WTM promoting various Malaysia travel packages together with new travel trends to the general travel trade attending the event over the 3 day period. WTM Africa 2016 was another impressive show which successfully contributed to the image and of Malaysia as portrayed to the visitors that arrived from all over Africa.

Tourism Malaysia Partners & Exhibitors have had meetings created before the event in order to maximise time usage which include those with product categories targeted towards leisure travel. This included demand in the adventure travel and the family travel sectors. Additionally hotel groups, DMCs, travel technology, adventure, eco, sports and golf tourism, cultural, heritage, food and wine product sellers were also available from all over the African continent to gain more insight on the various tourism products Malaysia was offering especially in city and shopping / Island and Beaches packages which is the most demanded in the African travel market.

Visitors and exhibitors who participated in the 3-day event have praised this year's event as an overwhelming success, providing them with excellent opportunities to enhance the development of travel and tourism in Africa, and to contribute to business development in the region with the advantage of a local presence combined with a global appeal. Global travel professionals expressed their confidence in the show, particularly as a platform on which to network with the right industry professionals and generate sound business deals. Prior to the official audit, the number of meetings for the 3rd addition of WT Africa has exceeded expectations with more than 600 exhibitors, new buyers from over 53 different countries, more than 7500 prescheduled appointments before the show began, as well as an 20% increase on 2015 visitors, WTM Africa certainly meant business this year, with remarkable results recorded.

Iftar Activities During Ramadhan



The big family of the High Commission of Malaysia gathered at the Chancery on Saturday, 25 June 2016, for breaking fast. It was arranged by the Social and Sports Club of the High Commission and was also attended by High Commissioner HE Dato' Badruddin Ab Rahman and Datin Noormah. Maghrib, Isyak and Terawih prayers were performed and led by Malaysian students.

The High Commissioner and a few other home-based officers also hosted *iftar* at their respective houses throughout this blessed month of Ramadhan. Such gatherings had helped to foster closer relations and fraternity among officers and staff of the High Commission and their family members.

Meanwhile, the High Commissioner also attended *iftar* invitations by a number of Heads of Missions, namely Egypt (8 June), Yemen (16 June) and Iraq (29 June).



Visit By a Former High Commissioner

YBhg. Dato' Abdul Kader Mohd Deen, the former High Commissioner of Malaysia to South Africa, visited the High Commission on 25 May 2016. He was on a one-week private visit to the country and accompanied by his wife, Datin Tengku Rasilah.

Dato' Abdul Kader served in Pretoria from 1997 to 1999. It was during his tenure the Malaysian Government purchased the chancery building and the official residence here.

Dato' Abdul Kader spent some time at the chancery where he met the officers and staff and narrated the history behind the acquisition of the two premises, as well as relations between Malaysia and South Africa back then. Having the chance to meet him again after almost 20 years was a pleasant surprise to some of the locally-recruited staff.



Dato' Abdul Kader (centre) and his wife (2nd from left) at the High Commission's meeting room.