

NEWSLETTER

EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA TO THE HOLY SEE



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MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY TAN SRI BERNARD GILUK DOMPOK



Greetings from Rome!

It has been more than a year since the Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy see was established. Our second year at the Vatican has continued to be blessed with colourful and memorable events which we will share in this Newsletter.

The New Year started with an audience with the Pope on the 1st January to exchange new year greetings. During the following two months I presented Credentials to the Presidents of the Republic of Malta and the Republic of Albania. Discussions with the two Presidents were rendered more interesting with Malta's position at the Presidency of the European Union (EU). In the case of Albania, they are in the midst of preparing for entry into the EU.

9th May 2017 goes down in history as the day the Chancery of the Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See was inaugurated. We had the privilege of welcoming YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman to perform the Inauguration ceremony at Via Della Conciliazione 4D Roma. From this strategic location, just 200 metres from the entrance into Vatican City, we are optimistic of accelerating Malaysia's contribution to the international discourse on peace and harmony in this troubled world.

I would like to congratulate Archbishop Simon Poh, the new Archbishop of Kuching who was in Rome to received his Pallium from His Holiness Pope Francis on 29 June 2017.

In the spirit of 1 Malaysia, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri. May the magic of Eid brings abundance of joy, peace and happiness. May we also continue to live in peace and harmony in the years ahead!

Thank you.

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

INAUGURATION OF THE CHANCERY OF THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA TO THE HOLY SEE



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia inaugurated the Chancery of the Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See on 9 May 2017. It was exactly 11 months to the day the First Resident Ambassador, Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, presented his credentials to His Holiness, Pope Francis. The Inauguration was attended by approximately 100 guests, including the Assessor for General Affairs of the Holy See, the Head of Protocol of the Holy See, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to the Holy See and members of the diplomatic corps.

In his inauguration address, the Minister described the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and The Holy See and the subsequent setting up of the Embassy as a milestone for Malaysia's international diplomacy. Malaysia and the Vatican share common grounds on many social issues and that Malaysia looks forward to working with the Vatican in these shared concerns.



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman signing the visitor's book for the Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See.



The Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See is located at Via Della Conciliazione 4/D in Rome. It is only 200 metres from Saint Peter's Square, a touristic attraction for pilgrims and tourist alike from all over the world.

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INAUGURATION OF THE CHANCERY OF THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA TO THE HOLY SEE



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman and YBhg Datin Sri Siti Rubiah Abdul Samad visit to the Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See on 9 May 2017.



YBhg. Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok briefing YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman on the new Chancery building as well as priorities laid out for the future of the Embassy.



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman's engagement with Prelates from the Holy See

From Left: YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Monsignor Bettencourt (Head of Protocol) and Monsignor Borgia (Assessor for General Affairs of the Holy See).



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman engaging representatives from the Pontifical Council of Interreligious Dialogue and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. of the Holy See.

From left: Wan Nor Haziki (PHD Student Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Fr. Markus Solo (Pontifical Council of Interreligious Dialogue), YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, H.E. Mr. Armindo Fernandes do Espirito Santo Viera, Ambassador of Angola to The Holy



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman with Home Based Staffs of the Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See

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YB DATO' SRI ANIFAH AMAN'S WORKING VISIT TO VATICAN CITY



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman visited Vatican City from 8-10 May 2017. During the visit, YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman called on his Eminence, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State to Pope Francis on 10 May 2017, at Vatican City. This was YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman's maiden visit since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2011.

During the call on Cardinal Parolin, both sides exchanged views on a range of topics covering bilateral relations with a view towards creating peace and stability.



YB Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs called on his counterpart, His Grace Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, on 10 May 2017, at Vatican City.

At the meeting with Archbishop Gallagher, issues discussed include international cooperation and global issues of mutual concern. Among the matters discussed was the effort to promote religious understanding.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs took the opportunity to highlight Malaysia's Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) initiative, which calls for moderation as a fundamental aspect of ensuring harmony between the various religious communities.

Both sides expressed their keen desire to work closely together on the various issues discussed, including education and inter-faith dialogue which would help towards combating extremism.

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PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok presented Credentials to Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of the Republic of Malta on 16 February 2017 at the President's Palace in Valletta, Republic of Malta.

Her Excellency Preca expressed her satisfaction with the warm and cordial relations between Malaysia and the Republic of Malta since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975. Malaysia and Malta enjoy strong bilateral relations in various fields through its shared history as Commonwealth countries.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok presented Credentials to His Excellency Bujar Faik Nishani, President of the Republic of Albania on 2 March 2017 at the "Chancellery of the President". He was accompanied by Puan Sri Diana Dompok and the Honorary Consul of Malaysia to Albania.

Both sides discussed issues related to regional and international issues focussing on social economic development and good governance. Malaysia and Albania maintain strong bilateral relations in various fields through its shared membership of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries.

INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE : VISIT TO THE GRAND MOSQUE AND THE ISLAMIC CULTURE CENTRE IN ROME



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See visited the grand Mosque and the Islamic Cultural Centre in Rome on 8 March 2017. The Mosque was built in 1966 and is one of the biggest Mosque in Europe.

According to Dr. Abdullah Raduan, Secretary-General of the Grand Mosque in Rome, the Mosque provides a place for worship not just for the Muslims of Rome and Italy but also visitors from all over the world. The Mosque and the Islamic Cultural Central has received dignitaries such as the President of the Republic of Italy, Mayor of Rome and our former Prime Minister YABhg. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia has also performed prayers in the Mosque.

ENGAGEMENTS WITH MATRADE, MIDA AND TOURISM MALAYSIA ITALY



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See met with the Trade Commissioner of Milan, Consul of MIDA and Director of Tourism Malaysia based in Milan on 22 May 2017.

Representatives from all three Government Agencies updated the Ambassador on the challenges and opportunities in the trade, investment and tourism sector in Italy, Malta and Albania.

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ENGAGEMENTS WITH PRELATES OF THE HOLY SEE



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok exchanged greetings with His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin on the occasion of the traditional yearly reception hosted by the Cardinal Secretariat of State on 1st June 2017.

This year's event was held at Castel Gandolfo and was attended by all Diplomatic corps. accredited to the Holy See.

His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok met Most Reverend monsignor Antoine Camilleri, Undersecretary for Relations with States on 4 April 2017.

Both sides discussed regional and international issues as well as the outcome of the audience by the EU Leaders on His Holiness Pope Francis.



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok met His Eminence Cardinal Peter Kodwo Turkson (Cardinal Turkson), Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development on 22 June 2017.

Both sides discussed issues related to social economic development, eradication of poverty and the environment.



ENGAGEMENT WITH MALAYSIAN DIASPORA IN VATICAN CITY



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok hosted a lunch for Malaysian students as well as members of the Opus Dei Training Centre Johore on the occasion of Easter Day on 16 April 2017. During the lunch, Tan Sri Bernard took the opportunity to brief the participants on roles and functions of the Embassy.

To-date, there were 22 Malaysian students studying in the various Pontifical Universities in Rome as well as 4 Malaysians working with the Vatican and its affiliated organizations.



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok hosted an evening tea session with 35 pilgrims from Sabah on 8 June 2017 on the occasion of Pesta Kaamatan. A mass was held on at the Church of Santa Maria Di Traspontina in Rome for the Harvest Festival, followed by a cultural dance performance outside the Vatican Basilica.

PESTA KAAMANTAN: CULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN VATICAN CITY



The Embassy of Malaysia to The Holy See received 80 pilgrims from Sabah undertaking their pilgrimage tour at the Vatican on 27 May 2017. A mass was held on the occasion of Pesta Kaamatan or the Harvest festival, followed by a cultural dance performance outside the Vatican Basilica.

The mass was conducted in Kadazandusun, one of the language of the momogun communities of Sabah. The cultural performance attracted a lot of curious visitors to Vatican City. The languages and cultures of the indigenous communities of East Malaysia have been accepted by the churches which have in fact contributed to the preservation of a Malaysian culture. Subsequently, TYT Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See hosted a dinner for the pilgrims at his residence to celebrate Pesta Kaamatan.

Among the attendees to the events were the Ambassadors of the Republic of Korea, Japan and Taiwan as well as Malaysian diaspora in Rome and Vatican City.



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VISIT TO CHRISTIAN ORDERS IN ROME



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok met Reverend Father Bruno Cadore Master of the Order of Preachers (Dominican Order) in Rome.

Fr. Cadore is also the Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Angelicum and the Chancellor of Collegio de San Juan de Letran and the University of Saint Thomas in Manila, the Philippines.

Both sides discussed issues related to the challenges of the education sector. Malaysia also looks forward for closer collaboration between Malaysia and the Holy See, given the vast resources and assets attained by the Vatican in the field of education.



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok visited the Brothers of Saint Gabriel on 16 June 2016 in Rome. It was exactly one year since the last visit. The Brothers of Saint Gabriel is a Christian Missionary dedicating their service to provide education to the poor children. Brother John Kallarackal from India is the current Superior General of Saint Gabriel in Rome.

His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok thanked the Brothers of Saint Gabriel for their contribution towards education in Malaysia not only in the earlier days but now. The contributions of the missionary of Saint Gabriel is still present in Malaysia through the Monfort Boys Town in the state of Selangor and Sabah.

MEMORABLE EVENTS FOR MALAYSIANS AT THE VATICAN



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See congratulated Most Reverend Archbishop Simon Poh Hoon Seng as the Prelate received his Pallium from His Holiness Pope Francis on 29 June 2017, on the occasion of the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul at the Vatican.

The Archbishop was in Vatican together with his parents and parishioners from Kuching to celebrate this memorable event. Archbishop Simon was among the 36 nominated Metropolitan Archbishop in 2017 by the Vatican.



His Excellency Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See congratulated 21 years old Vivian Francesca Wong Wee Vern for being the first Malaysian to be baptised by His Holiness Pope Francis in Rome on Easter day.

Vivian's journey to fulfil her wish to be baptised in Rome by the Pope has finally come through her hard work and the strong believe in God. Vivian was formerly a trainee in a retreat house in Johore operated by Opus Dei. Vivian also expressed her appreciation to the Ambassador of Malaysia to The Holy See for all his support in making her wish a reality.

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