



MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY IN BAHRAIN CELEBRATES EID-UL-FITR



Aidilfitri or Eid ul-Fitr, falls on Sunday, 25 June 2017 in the Kingdom of Bahrain. For the Malaysian community in Bahrain, celebrating Aidilfitri away from home had brought them to *Rumah Malaysia* in Jasra, on the first day of Eid.

H.E. Ambassador Agus Salim bin Yusof, Ambassador of Malaysia in the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted a Hari Raya gathering of more than 100 Malaysians and their family members in a true Hari Raya spirit. The celebration was complete with sumptuous traditional delicacies and

raya songs playing in the background in full *lebaran* mood. The event had provided a golden opportunity for the community to mingle and get to know each other in this blessed land Bahrain.

The day before, some of them had gathered at the official residence of the Ambassador to jointly prepare the special dishes for Eid-ul-Fitr. To mark the beginning of the month of Syawal, they also recited the takbir after Isya' prayers.

~Eid Mubarak 2017~

Changes at the Top

The Embassy of Malaysia in the Kingdom of Bahrain saw a change of leadership in 2017 following the mandatory retirement of YBhg. Dato' Amb. Ahmad Shahizan Abd Samad on 13 January 2017, after serving in Bahrain since 22 November 2011.

H.E. Ambassador Agus Salim bin Yusof, succeeded Dato' Ahmad Shahizan as the 4th Ambassador of Malaysia to Bahrain. H.E. Amb. Agus Salim presented his Letters of Credence to the King of Bahrain on 25 April 2017.

The Embassy wishes Dato' Ahmad Shahizan a happy retirement and thank you very much, and welcomes Amb. Agus Salim.

MALAYSIA-BAHRAIN BILATERAL RELATIONS REACHED NEW HEIGHTS

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain held a four (4) day State Visit to Malaysia from 30 April 2017 to 3 May 2017. The historic state visit, the 67-year-old monarch's maiden visit to Malaysia since ascending the throne on 6 March 1999, aimed at enhancing ties between the two countries.

The visit was the first by a Ruler of Bahrain since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Bahrain on 25 November 1974.

His Majesty King Hamad was accorded a full-fledged state welcoming ceremony at Parliament House on 1 May 2017. His Majesty then had an audience with the SPB Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Muhammad V followed by a state banquet at Istana Negara. The next day, His Majesty King Hamad was conferred with Maroon Baret and Honorary Wing by the Malaysian Armed Forces in a special military ceremony held at the *Dataran Panglima Tentera Darat*.

His Majesty then had a bilateral meeting with YAB Prime Minister, followed by witnessing of the signing of the Air Services Agreement (ASA); and several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), namely, MOU on Small and Medium Enterprises and Industrial Cooperation; MOU on Defence Cooperation and Exchanges; and MOU between National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia (NCCIM) and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).

The visit had taken the cordial relationship between both countries to a higher level and paved the way for a greater exchange of technical, scientific and technological expertise, as well as security and defence cooperation. Bahrain also announced the establishment of its Embassy in Malaysia to elevate and strengthen ties between Malaysia and Bahrain.

The overall trade volume between Malaysia and Bahrain in 2016 was RM861.5 million. This places Bahrain as Malaysia's ninth (9th) trading partner in the West Asian region.



From top:

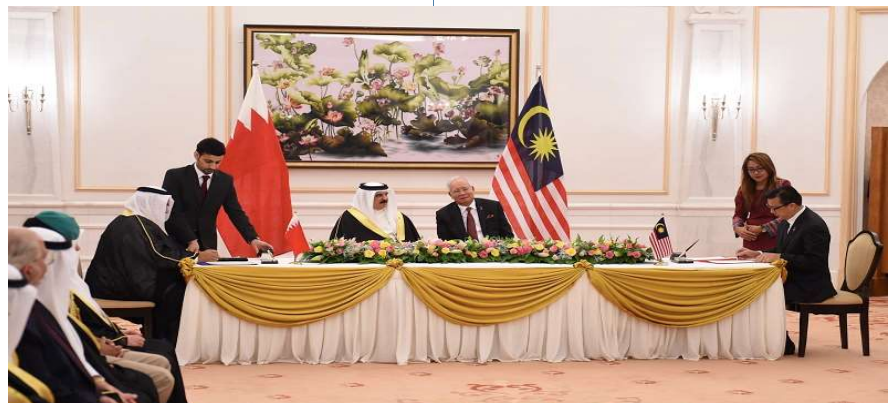
(1) SPB YDP Agong and H.M. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa saluting the guard of honour during the official welcoming ceremony at the Parliament.

(2) Left to Right; YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib, H.M. King Hamad, SPB YDP Agong, YABhg. Datin Sri Rosmah Mansor.

(3) YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib shaking hands with H.M. King Hamad at Seri Perdana.

Right:

(4) YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib with H.M. King Hamad witnessed the signing of MOUs between Malaysia and Bahrain.



A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Dear readers,

I arrived in Manama on 13 April 2017 after being appointed as the Malaysian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain by Yang Di-Pertuan Agong HM Sultan Muhammad V on 21 February 2017. The appointment was accepted by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain in a simple but heart-warming ceremony at Sakhir Palace on 25 April 2017.

I am delighted to be here. The Kingdom of Bahrain is not a strange place for me as I have visited the country a few times between 1997 and 2000 when I was assigned to Kuwait. Returning after almost 20 years, I saw tremendous physical changes in Bahrain, but the people is still warm and friendly as ever. My gratitude goes to the leaders and officials of Bahrain who have warmly welcomed me, making my life comfortable. It is my hope that throughout my assignment here, I would be able to enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields and to promote Malaysia's interests in Bahrain.

I am taking this opportunity to express my appreciation to my committed group of officers and staff at the Embassy. You have been and will continue to be my backbone. Let us work together with dedication and integrity for the sake of the country.

To my fellow Malaysians living in Bahrain (some of whom I have met), please accept "salam perkenalan" from me and my wife. Do always keep the good name of Malaysia while you contribute your expertise to the development of Bahrain. I also encourage you to register yourself at the Embassy if you have not done so. This is important for us to know the real number of Malaysians living here and to make the necessary preparation in the event of an emergency. Please do not hesitate to visit us at the Embassy if you have anything to discuss. In addition, our door at Rumah Malaysia is always open to receive you.

To all readers of Manama Connects, we hope this newsletter gives you interesting information about the Embassy's activities for the past six months. We plan to publish Manama Connects quarterly from next year, so that we can get connected more frequently.

With warmest regards,

AGUS SALIM BIN YUSOF



NAME: AGUS SALIM BIN HAJI YUSOF

DATE/PLACE OF BIRTH: 29.03.1970 / Johor Bahru

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION:
BPA (Hons), Universiti Utara Malaysia

APPOINTMENTS:

- 21.03.1994: Appointed as a Malaysian Administrative and Diplomatic Officer
- 11.07.1995: Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wisma Putra) as an Assistant Secretary, OIC Division
- 22.09.1996: Second Secretary, Embassy of Malaysia, Kuwait
- 14.12.2000: First Secretary, Embassy of Malaysia, Kazakhstan
- 24.10.2005: Principle Assistant Secretary, OIC Division, Wisma Putra
- 18.04.2009: Counsellor, High Commission of Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam
- 20.06.2012: Member of the International Monitoring Team, Mindanao, Philippines
- 01.07.2013: Director, Information and Public Diplomacy Department, Wisma Putra
- 11.11.2013: Principle Assistant Secretary, Administration and Security Division, Wisma Putra
- 29.01.2016: Minister Counsellor, High Commission of Malaysia, South Africa
- 13.04.2017: Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain

COURTESY CALLS BY THE AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA

After arrival in the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Ambassador Agus Salim made several courtesy calls with Bahrain leaders and influential persons which were highlighted in local main stream media. Picture Description as follows:

- (1) Minister of Interior Bahrain, Lt General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa
- (2) Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa
- (3) Chief Executive Office of LMRA, Ausamah Abdulla Al Absi
- (4) Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, H.E. Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani
- (5) Minister of Housing, H.E. Basim Alhamer
- (6) Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, H.E. DR Abdulhusain Mirza
- (7) Minister of Labour and Social Development, H.E. Jameel Humaidan



MINISTER OF DEFENCE VISITS THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

YB Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence Malaysia made a three (3) day working visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain on 2-4 April 2017.

During the visit, Dato' Seri Hishammuddin held meetings and audiences with His Majesty King Hamad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prime Minister, His Highness Commander of Royal Guard, Bahrain Defence Force commander-in-chief and other Bahraini dignitaries.

The historic visit has paved the way towards building a closer relationship between Bahrain and Malaysia especially in defense cooperation and security. The Minister was accorded



the highest level of hospitality from the Bahraini Defence Force, and given a military welcoming ceremony at the BDF headquarters.



MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY IN BAHRAIN GATHERED FOR IFTAR

About 150 Malaysians and their families residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain gathered at the Almoayed Compound on Friday, 2 June 2017 for *iftar*, *terawikh* prayers.

The event was organized by the Malaysian Club in Bahrain (MCB). The gathering also marked the first time H.E. Ambassador Agus Salim bin Yusof and his wife met with the Malaysian community since his arrival in Bahrain on 13 April 2017.



INTERVIEW BY MALAYSIAN JOURNALISTS

On 23 May 2017, H.E. Ambassador Agus Salim Yusof gave a press interview to journalists from 4 Malaysian media outlets namely BERNAMA, Focus Malaysia, The Edge and Sin Chew Daily. They were on a 2-day familiarisation tour of Bahrain to focus on economic and business opportunities in the country. The tour was fully sponsored by Bahrain Economic Development Board. The interview gave the opportunity for Amb. Agus Salim to express his opinion, thoughts and insight on the prospects in Bahrain for Malaysian companies.



AMBASSADOR MEETS THE MALAYSIA CLUB OF BAHRAIN

On 24 May 2017, H.E. Ambassador Agus Salim Yusof had his first meeting with the office bearers of the Malaysia Club of Bahrain, led by its president, Mr. Mohd Nazri Wagiman. The meeting took place at Rumah Malaysia at 7.00 p.m. The Ambassador listened to the planned activities of the Club and expressed his expectation and advice. The meeting was followed by dinner. There are close to 400 Malaysians living in Bahrain.



INTERVIEW BY “BAHRAIN THIS MONTH” MAGAZINE

On 8 June 2017, H.E. Ambassador Agus Salim bin Yusof received a journalist from the Bahrain This Month magazine at the Embassy, who came to interview him as the new Ambassador of Malaysia to the Kingdom of Bahrain. H.E. Ambassador talked about a wide range of issues including his experiences as a career diplomat and helping the number one job in Bahrain as well as his aspirations and vision to chart Malaysia-Bahrain bilateral ties in the future.



LAUNCHING OF ASEAN COMMITTEE IN MANAMA

The ASEAN Committee in Manama was launched on 25 May 2017 during its first meeting. The setting up of the Committee was sanctioned by the Secretary-General of ASEAN a month ago. The Committee consists of the Heads of Mission of Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Brunei. The Committee selected the Ambassador of the Philippines in Manama as its first chairperson.





The 2050 National Transformation or *Transformasi Nasional* (TN50) is a new 30-year transformation plan for Malaysia. It is a new vision for Malaysia, announced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia during the 2017 Budget. TN50 aims to transform Malaysia into a nation of caliber with a new mindset. TN50 will span three decades, and the youths of all races will form the core of this new transformation plan.

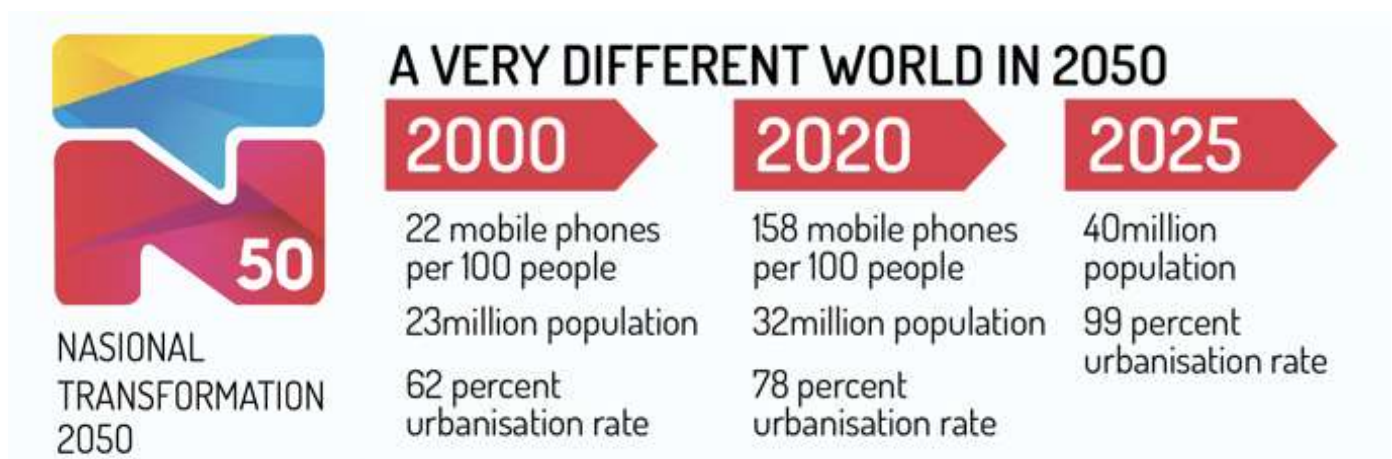
On 19 January 2017, the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, launched the first series of national discourse to chart the nation's direction on a new canvas as the 2050 National Transformation with some 500 youth leaders at Dewan Tunku Canselor, University Malaya. The general goal for TN50 is for Malaysia to become a top 20 country in the world by the year 2050.

In the run up to the unveiling of TN50 in 2019, there will be a series of discussions on what the Malaysian identity should be by 2050 – in terms of how Malaysians view themselves as diverse Malaysians.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is tasked to collect views from youths in the first few months of this year, before moving on to other groups. The year 2017 will be spent collecting views from public with 2018 the year for the Government to have more focused discussions with experts to see whether the views and suggestions are realistic. Near the end of the next year or early 2019, the Government will form a policy document on TN50 to be announced by the Prime Minister.

“Let TN50 bear witness; (let it) be recorded in history that we are responsible citizens and forefathers, to leave behind the best and the greatest legacy to be inherited by future generations. “From now on, TN50 is our lucky charm. Let the old legacy pass. The future of Malaysia, we will recreate,” - Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, 21 October 2016.

TN50 will be the roadmap, after Vision 2020 that will transform the country's economy, citizen well-being, environment, technology, social interaction, governance and public administration.



CONSULAR INFORMATION

For Malaysians residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain, they are highly encouraged to register themselves with the Embassy of Malaysia in Manama, Bahrain.

Registering with us would enable the Embassy to get in touch with Malaysians, especially during emergencies cases.

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

1. Passport valid at least 6 months prior to departure.
2. Passport should have at least two (2) empty pages facing each other.
3. Two (2) passport size photographs.
4. Ticket booking AND hotel booking or accommodation address in Malaysia.
5. No objection letter (NOC) from sponsor in Bahrain.
6. Letter of Explanation or invitation AND multiple ticket and reservation (for Multiple Visa)
7. Fees Depending on the Type of Visa (exact amount in cash only accepted)
 - Single Entry Visa BHD5.000
 - Multiple Entries Visa BHD10.000
8. Three (3) months Bank Statement.
9. Visa approval letter (for student).
10. Valid CPR and applicant must come personally to the Embassy to apply.
11. The Application form – http://www.jimlondon.net/Form_IM.47.pdf
12. Processing time is 1-3 working days.

For further information, the Embassy can be reached with details as follows:



EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA MANAMA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

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Road 2830, Block 428
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Manama

Telephone: +973 1756 4551

Fax: +973 1756 4552

Email: mwmanama@kln.gov.my

Working Days: Sunday-Thursday (7.30 am to 2.30pm)

Consular hours: Application 8am – 10.30am; Collection 11am – 1pm