

PRIME NEWS

Obama leaves lasting impression

NST-29/4/2014

HISTORIC EVENT:

US president's visit
cherished by
Malaysians

**BALQIS NASIR
AND MASTURA YUSOFF**
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

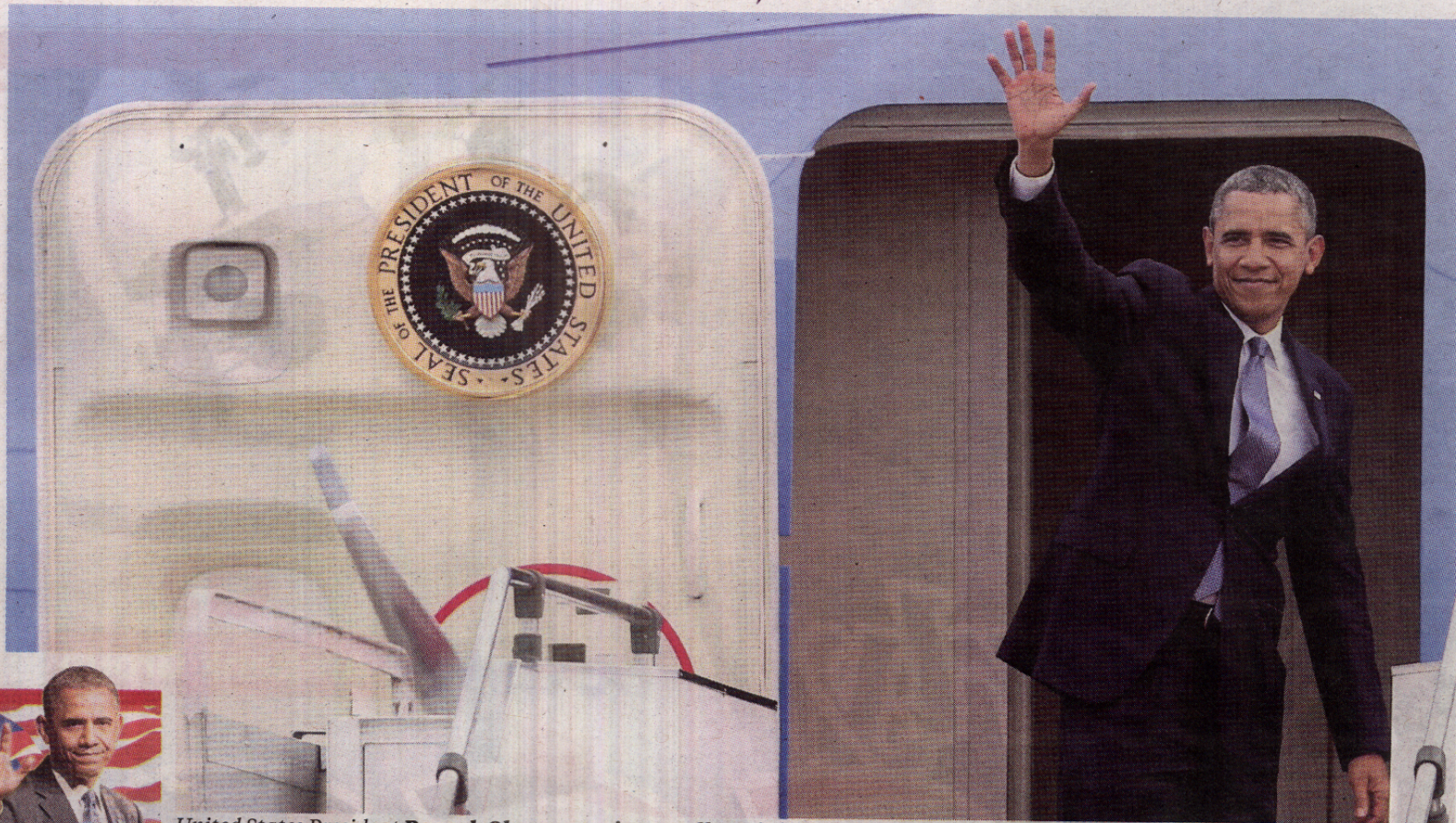
UNITED States President Barack Obama's visit to Malaysia may have lasted all of three days, but it left a lasting impact on many Malaysians.

His visit, the first by a sitting US president since 1966, captured the imagination of the people, who felt that it marked a memorable chapter in the nation's history. Apart from meeting Malaysian government leaders, Obama also visited Masjid Negara and fielded questions from young Malaysians at a town hall event in Universiti Malaya.

He ended his trip yesterday morning and departed via the presidential jet, Air Force One, for Manila, the Philippines, from

the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base in Subang. Present to send him off were Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

The Philippines will be Obama's



United States President **Barack Obama** waving goodbye aboard Air Force One at the **Royal Malaysian Air Force Base in Subang** yesterday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

**OBAMA
IN MALAYSIA**
April 26-28, 2014

final stop in his four-nation tour of Asia, which had earlier included Japan and South Korea.

White House national security adviser Susan Rice, who accompanied Obama, described the trip on Twitter as not only having cemented the relationship between the nations, but also having fos-

tered closer bonds between their peoples.

"US-Malaysia relationship greatly transformed as President Obama and Prime Minister (Datuk Seri) Najib (Razak) have opened (a) new era of cooperation. We are deepening (our) partnership with (the Malaysian) government — but we greatly value our relationship with all of the people of Malaysia," she posted under the Twitter handle,

@AmbassadorRice.

Malaysians took to social media to thank Obama.

On Facebook, Linda Khor wrote: "Thank you, Mr President Obama, for (the) good advice to all young Malaysians. It is not easy to change people's mindset. Have a safe journey and take care, sir."

Renie Martha Joanes wrote: "Thanks, Obama. Come and visit us again. Have a safe journey."

Hema Rani wrote: "Have a safe journey, sir. Thank you for visiting Malaysia and God bless you for helping us in (the) MH370 (search-and-recovery mission)."

Johan Abdullah wrote: "Thank you, Mr Obama, for the US' assistance in helping in the search for MH370. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Let's not wait another 50 years before another US president visits."