

Tuanku Abdul Halim: Two Eras, One Malaysia
Bernama
April 10, 2012
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama) -- Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, who will be installed as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong tomorrow, has not only created history for having been appointed to the post twice but also for serving as the Head of State in two eras.

Tuanku Abdul Halim was elected the 5th Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1970 at a time when the country was placed under the administration of the National Operations Council (Mageran) which resulted in the creation of several important policies to bring Malaysia forward, especially the New Economic Policy, which aimed to eradicate poverty and restructure the society.

At that time, Malaysia was striving to raise from the bitter experience of the May 13, 1969 racial clashes.

But it is a different Malaysia when Tuanku Abdul Halim formally marks the commencement of his tenure as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong tomorrow. Malaysia of today is a country striving to achieve a high-income developed nation status by 2020.

Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, the father of the current Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib, was the prime minister during Tuanku Abdul Halim's tenure as the Fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. His Majesty now has Najib to drive the country forward towards achieving the Vision 2020.

Tuanku Abdul Halim, who was born on Nov 28, 1927, received his early education at Sekolah Melayu Titi Gajah before pursuing his studies at Maktab Sultan Abdul Hamid, Alor Setar, Kedah.

His Majesty then furthered his studies at Wadham College, Oxford, London in early 1952, majoring in Social Science and Public Administration. He was appointed the Raja Muda of Kedah on Aug 6, 1949.

On March 9, 1957, His Majesty was appointed as the Regent of Kedah when his father, Sultan Badlishah went overseas between March 12 and July 3, 1957.

Following the demise of Sultan Badlishah, Tuanku Abdul Halim, then 35, ascended to the throne of Kedah on July 14, 1958 and was installed as the Sultan of Kedah on Feb 20, 1959.

On July 2008, His Majesty celebrated the Golden Jubilee, marking the 50th year of his ascension to the throne.

On Sept 21, 1965, Tuanku Abdul Halim was elected as the 4th Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong by the Conference of Rulers.

On Dec 13, 2006, Tuanku Abdul Halim was elected the 13th Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong

and at the special meeting of the 226th Conference of Rulers on Oct 14, last year, he was named the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong succeeding Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu whose term ended on Dec 12, 2011.

On Dec 13, 2011, in conjunction with the 227th special meeting of the Conference of Rulers, Tuanku Abdul Halim was officially proclaimed the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

His Majesty married Tuanku Hajah Bahiyah Tuanku Abdul Rahman on March 10, 1956 and they were blessed with three daughters, namely Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz who was born in 1966, Tunku Soraya (1961) and Tunku Salina (1961).

Tunku Salina passed away on Aug 31, 1991.

Sultanah Bahiyah passed away on Aug 26, 2003 at the Istana Kuala Chegar, Anak Bukit, Alor Setar, Kedah.

Tuanku Abdul Halim married Che Puan Hajah Haminah Hamidun on Dec 25, 1975. She was proclaimed the Sultanah of Kedah with the title Tuanku Sultanah Hajah Haminah on Jan 9, 2004.

Tuanku Abdul Halim is known as a distinguished King who cares for the religion and his subjects.

During his reign as the Sultan of Kedah, he often visited the grassroots in the effort to bridge the gap between the people and the palace.

His affable demeanour makes him a much loved and respected monarch among his subjects in Kedah in particular, and in Malaysia in general.

His Majesty is actively involved in activities with the people, and having been the patron of numerous organisations including the Sultan Abdul Hamid Old Collegians Association, Vintage Classic Car Register Malaysia & Singapore, National Association of Snooker & Billiard Sports, Kedah Golf Association and the Sultanah Bahiyah Foundation.

Tuanku Abdul Halim puts great emphasis on education. As the Sultan of Kedah, he, and Tuanku Hajah Haminah, would attend numerous activities in primary and secondary schools, in teacher's training colleges as well as in universities.

His Majesty is also the Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), National Defence University of Malaysia (UPNM) as well as the Kedah Darul Aman Insaniah University College.

Besides being active in associations, His Majesty is also a ruler who cares for the environment and has always given attention to the effort to conserve the country's flora and fauna.

His Majesty also has a keen interest in animal keeping and has several pets such as birds, horses and deer at Istana Anak Bukit.

Apart from being busy with the country's administration and charitable activities, His Majesty would find time to engage in recreation and sports.

During his younger days, His Majesty played tennis and billiard. Nowadays, however, he

plays golf, but keeps himself abreast with the developments in these two sports.

He also takes serious note of the country's football development, particularly the Kedah team, and has always motivated the home team to bring glory to the state in the country's football arena.

He also takes interest in other hobbies such as reading, travelling and photography.

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