

**Tuanku Abdul Halim Friendly And Approachable Says Classmate
Bernama
April 11, 2012
By Mohd Khairul Fikri Osman**

JITRA, April 11 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah was a student in the Special Malay Class at Kolej Sultan Abdul Hamid (KSAH).

He and his younger brother Tuanku Abdul Malik stayed at the hostel like other students from 1939 until 1948, according to his classmate, Abdul Majid Puteh, 85, who knew the king since he was 12 years-old while they were studying together in Primary Four.

Abdul Majid from Kampung Tok Kesop near here said the king's father, Sultan Badlishah sent his sons to the hostel to learn and be closer to the people in the Kedah sultanate.

"His friendly, approachable nature towards people endeared him to the students and many were in awe of him and loved him," he told Bernama here.

Abdul Majid said during the Japanese invasion and World War II, he and the other students and Tuanku Abdul Halim were apart for four years as all the English schools were occupied by the Japanese army and turned into their base.

"When the school re-opened in 1941, the (now) king himself approached, greeted and asked me how I was. From then on we regularly met up for a chat," he said.

Abdul Majid said he was surprised once at seeing the king washing his own clothes.

"I was amazed, the son of a Sultan at the time and a potential ruler himself but he was self-reliant without being dependent on the palace," he recalled.

He said their camaraderie continued even as Tuanku Abdul Halim ascended to the throne on July 14, 1958 following his father's demise and he was often invited to the palace "even though I was merely an English teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Tunjang".

Abdul Majid recalled his most memorable moment in 1966 when the Sultan invited his family comprising his wife Wan Zainab Wan Abdullah, 71, and their eight children who were then aged between 20 and 45 and their spouses as well and 30 grandchildren to Istana Anak Bukit.

"I am proud that Tuanku Abdul Halim has created history by his installation as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for the second time and I pray that the king would be blessed with good health to reign over the country and make it more progressive, peaceful and harmonious," he said.

Abdul Majid retired as Sekolah Kebangsaan Tunjang headmaster and was awarded the state excellent service award in 1978, as well as the Bintang Kebaktian Masyarakat (BKM) in 1995 and 'Tokoh Guru Kedah' in 2000.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAM

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/bm/newsindex.php?id=658341>