

The people come first
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By SIRA HABIBU

THE Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah is known to treasure every card, letter and photograph in his possession.

His Majesty takes pride in keeping every piece of record that tells its own history.

Among the items in his collection is a black and white photograph of him and Tun Abdul Razak Hussein during the inaugural private audience soon after the latter was appointed as the second Prime Minister in 1970.

Tuanku Abdul Halim, who will turn 85 on Nov 28, had the photograph framed and presented to Razak's son, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib, during a recent private audience.

"I'm overwhelmed with the gift from Tuanku," said Najib in a recent interview over the radio.

Tuanku Abdul Halim had also requested for a similar photograph to be taken with Najib, as he was the reigning Agong during the era of Razak and returned to the rotating throne four decades later during the era of Razak's son Najib.

Tuanku Abdul Halim reigned as the fifth Yang di-Pertuan Agong from 1970 to 1975, and was installed as 14th Agong in April this year.

Malaysia is blessed with a ruler like Tuanku Abdul Halim who is well aware of the perils of disunity. His Majesty had on numerous occasions stressed on the importance of unity in maintaining peace, harmony and stability.

In many of his speeches, he had called on the public to take heed of the turmoil in the Middle East that was aggravated by divided communities.

He also repeatedly called on the people to shed negative attitudes including extremism, jealousy, and bad mouthing that could trigger feuds and subsequently split the society.

Tuanku Abdul Halim is a peace-loving ruler who places great emphasis on economic progress, sustainable development, as well as the welfare of the rakyat.

Former Kedah Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said Tuanku Abdul Halim had always placed great emphasis on development and economic progress.

"Tuanku is a visionary ruler with lots of practical ideas on ways to bring about progress," he said.

On the lighter side, Tuanku Abdul Halim also loves golf, exotic birds and P. Ramlee movies.

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