

**Seals Important Symbols Of National Institutions, Sovereignty - Selangor Sultan
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SHAH ALAM, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris said not many people were aware of the existence of seals, their importance and functions, including as symbols of authority and nation's sovereignty.

The Sultan said this when launching the exhibition titled "Lasting Impressions: Seals from the Islamic World", which runs until Jan 27, 2013 at the Islamic Arts Museum, Kuala Lumpur.

Sultan Sharafuddin said during the glory days of Islam, the Prophet's seal was used for every letter sent to foreign heads of state. Since then, the use of seals has become a tradition in the Islamic world by the highly educated and those with influence.

"The seal has become the official signature in place of the thumb print on important documents. It is also a symbol of the status and image of an individual or government."

The Sultan also said that in this country, the royal seal had been in existence since the reign of Melaka Sultan, Sultan Muzaffar Syah in the 15th century before the coming of the Portuguese, where the seal was used in establishing diplomatic relations and trade, and in spreading Islam in the region.

He said in the modern day, the use of the Rulers' Seal was approved by the Conference of Malay Rulers in 1948, which proved authority and validity of any official document signed by the rulers.

Sultan Sharafuddin thanked the Al-Bukhary Foundation for organising the exhibition to create public awareness on the significance of the seal and its role in a sovereign nation.

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