

Kedahans Pray For Tuanku Abdul Halim's Wellbeing
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ALOR SETAR, May 30 (Bernama) -- In conjunction with the birthday of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah on June 1, Kedahans pray for his wellbeing so that he can continue to rule the country fairly and justly.

Tuanku Abdul Halim was the first ruler in the country's history to be installed as head of state twice when he was installed as 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong April 11, 2012.

The Sultan of Kedah was first first became head of state when he was installed as the 5th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (1970 to 1975).

Siti Roszaitul Asma Zainal Abidin, 23, said as a Kedahan, she always pray for his majesty's good health so that he can continue to head the country.

The university student said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is not only the head of state but also the head of Islam in this country.

His majesty carries the hopes of the people to ensure that Islam's sanctity is preserved and Malaysia remains an Islamic country and model for other countries.

"Happy birthday. I always pray that your majesty get the protection of Allah to continue to safeguard the sovereign of this country," she added.

Hasmizan Yusof, 27, said Tuanku Abdul Halim is much loved by Kedahans for his caring personality and calm nature when faced with challenges.

"Praise does not come only from Kedahans but also from people from the other states as he always meet people on the ground no matter what the situation."

Abdul Majid Puteh, 86, who attended Sultan Abdul Hamid College in 1939 as a 12 year-old together said Tuanku Abdul Halim said the young prince was independent and washed his own clothes.

"I was very impressed with young Tuanku Abdul Halim. He did not ask for help from the palace although he was the future sultan," said former teacher Abdul Majid.

They remained close friends even when Tuanku Abdul Hamil ascended the throne and became Sultan of Kedah on July 14, 1958 after the death of his father Sultan Badlishah.

Abdul Majid said when he was an English teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Tunjang near here, Tuanku Abdul Halim invited him to the palace on several occasions.

The sweetest memory was in 1996, when Tuanku Abdul Halim invited his family, including wife Wan Zainab Wan Abdullah, 71, eight children and 30 grandchildren to Istana Anak Bukit.

He said Tuanku Abdul Halim was always concerned with the welfare of former classmates and often attended feasts at their homes.

When it comes to food, Tuanku Abdul Halim love the 'popia' (spring roll) and 'mee' (noodles), two items that are a must in the menu of state functions at Istana Anak Bukit.

Popia Mohamad owner Seeni Mohamad Jamal Mohamed, 45, said he often received orders for popia from Istana Anak Bukit for official functions attended by Tuanku Abdul Halim.

Seeni Mohamad who set up shop in Jalan Tun Razak here since the last 20 years said his popia is based on a family recipe created by his grandfather Kadir Myden.

The third generation popia maker is also very proud when Tuanku Abdul Halim was installed as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong last year.

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