

**Agong Presented With Key To City Of Bangkok
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From Norhayati Mohd Akhir**

BANGKOK, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, was on Monday presented with the symbolic key to the city of Bangkok by Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra.

"It gives me great pleasure to receive the symbolic key to the city of Bangkok following my arrival for my second state visit to Thailand as Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"I wish to thank His Excellency the Bangkok Governor for the great honour given to me as well as to Malaysia," Tuanku Abdul Halim said in his speech after receiving the key.

Held at the Chao Phraya Room of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel here, the event were graced by the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Hajah Haminah, Thailand Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

The key presentation is a symbolic welcoming event for every head of state who visits Thailand.

Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah arrived here today for a three-day state visit to Thailand.

The special aircraft carrying Their Majesties touched down at the Royal Thai Air Force Base in Don Mueang at 11 am (noon in Malaysia).

Their Majesties were welcomed by Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn introduced Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and the country's senior officials to Tuanku Abdul Halim.

Tuanku Abdul Halim and Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn then stood on a specially erected platform for the state welcome accompanied by a 21-gun salute. The national anthem of both nations were played.

Tuanku Abdul Halim, accompanied by Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, inspected a guard-of-honour.

The visiting royal couple are scheduled to have an audience with Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit at Klai Kangwon Palace in Hua Hin here later in the day.

King Bhumibol will present 'The Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of the Royal House of Chakri (Thailand)' to Tuanku Abdul Halim and the 'Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Illustrious Order of the Chula Chom Klao (Thailand)' to Tuanku Hajah Haminah.

Tuanku Abdul Halim's visit to Thailand is the third to an Asean country, after having visited Indonesia and Brunei last year, following his installation as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for the second time on April 11 last year.

Their Majesties are accompanied by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom who is the minister-in-attendance.

Tomorrow, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is scheduled to grant an audience to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

In the evening, Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah will attend a state banquet at the Chakri Throne Hall at the Grand Palace.

In a separate programme, Tuanku Hajah Haminah will visit the Red Cross Children's Home in Bangkok, accompanied by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong are scheduled to begin a three-day state visit to Vietnam on Thursday.

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