

King, Queen Arrive In Vietnam For Four-day State Visit
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From Siti Aisyah Harun

HANOI, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Hajah Haminah, arrived here Thursday for a four-day state visit to Vietnam.

The special aircraft carrying Their Majesties touched down at the Noi Bai International Airport at 10.45 am (11.45 am in Malaysia).

The royal couple had flown in from Bangkok after concluding a three-day state visit to Thailand.

Their Majesties were welcomed by the Chairman of the Presidential Office of Vietnam, Dao Viet Trung; Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Phuong Nga; Vietnamese Ambassador to Malaysia Nguyen Hong Thao and several other dignitaries as well as the Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam Datuk Azmil Mohd Zabidi.

Tuanku Abdul Halim's entourage included the Tunku Laksamana of Kedah, Datuk Seri Diraja Tunku Abdul Hamid Thani; and His Majesty's daughters, the Tunku Panglima Besar of Kedah, Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Syafinaz and Datuk Seri Diraja Tunku Soraya.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom is the minister-in-attendance.

Tuanku Abdul Halim is scheduled to have an audience with Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang.

His Majesty is also scheduled to grant an audience to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong.

Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah are also scheduled to attend a state banquet hosted by the Vietnamese president and attend a reception with Malaysians living in Vietnam.

Their Majesties' visit coincides with the 40th anniversary of bilateral relations between Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi, and it is hoped that it will enhance ties and cooperation in the fields of investment, trade, security and tourism.

This is the maiden visit of Tuanku Abdul Halim to Vietnam following His Majesty's installation as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in April last year.

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