

King, Queen End State Visit To Vietnam
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From Siti Aisyah Harun

HANOI, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah Hamidun Sunday ended their four-day state visit to Vietnam.

Their Majesties, who were accompanied by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom as minister-in-attendance, left for home on a special aircraft from the Noi Bai International Airport Special Terminal in Hanoi at 4pm (local time).

Chairman of the Vietnamese President's Office, Dao Viet Trung; Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Phuong Nga and Vietnam's Ambassador to Malaysia, Nguyen Hong Thao, were at the airport to send off the Royal couple.

The visit by Their Majesties is to further enhance bilateral relations between Malaysia and Vietnam as well as forge closer relations among the people of both countries.

The visit to Vietnam is His Majesty's first, and the fourth state visit to ASEAN member countries since his installation on April 11 last year.

His Majesty visited Indonesia and Brunei last year and before coming to Vietnam, had made a state visit to Thailand

While in Vietnam, Tuanku Abdul Halim met Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang and Vietnamese Communist Party secretary-general Nguyen Phu Trong, as well as Malaysians living in Hanoi.

During the meeting with President Truong, they both agreed for Malaysia and Vietnam to further enhance cooperation through international level conferences.

At the meeting with Phu Trong, the Yang diPertuan Agong invited the party leader to visit Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong arrived at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport, in Alor Setar from Hanoi in the evening.

The special aircraft bringing back the royal couple landed at the airport at 7.40pm and they were received by the chairman of the Kedah Council of Regency, Tan Sri Tunku Annuar Sultan Badlishah.

Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir and state executive council members were also present to welcome the king and queen back from their official four-day visit to Vietnam since Thursday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom was the minister in attendance during the royal couple's visit to that country.

As soon as the king and queen alighted from the aircraft, Kedah mufti Datuk Syeikh Baderuddin Ahmad recited the doa on their safe return.

Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah then travelled in the official car to Istana Anak Bukit.

The king is scheduled to launch the departure of the first batch of pilgrims for the Haj from Sultan Abdul Halim Airport Monday morning.

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