

**Malaysia, Singapore Should Continue To Promote Interaction Among Their Peoples -  
Agong  
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By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah**

SINGAPORE, May 19 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah has called on Singapore and Malaysia to continue to promote interaction among their peoples, especially the younger generation.

This is to ensure that their friendship will be much stronger in years to come, said Tuanku Abdul Halim in his address at a state banquet Monday evening.

The banquet held in honour of Tuanku Abdul Halim and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Hajah Haminah Hamidun was hosted by Singapore President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs Mary Tan.

Also present were Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Lim Swee Say, Malaysian Minister of Works Datuk Fadillah Yusof, and the Malaysia High Commissioner to Singapore, Datuk Husni Zai Yaacob.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong noted that Malaysia and Singapore have always been closely connected.

"We share similar history, culture and vision. The Raja Permaisuri and I are pleased that the bilateral relations between our two countries have gained much traction since the last time we met in Malaysia.

"Recently, in last April, our two prime ministers met for the 5th Annual Leaders Retreat in Putrajaya. We are happy that our countries are forging ahead in full steam."

Tuanku Abdul Halim said they (their majesties) were confident that the various initiatives agreed by the two prime ministers would continue to improve connectivity between the two countries.

This would bring their economies and peoples closer, contributing towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community in 2015.

Indeed, relations between the two governments are important.

However, we should also continue to nourish the human dimension of our ties," Tuanku Abdul Halim said.

He noted many of us have relatives and friends across the Causeway.

"The staggering number of people crossing over during the Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, Deepavali and school holidays is a testimony to how deeply connected we are."

Tuanku Abdul Halim assured the President that Malaysia will continue to be Singapore's friend and partner in the journey to shape both countries's future together for common prosperity.

Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah arrived here on Sunday.

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