



# HARIMAU WASHINGTON

Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C. Newsletter Edition 4

1 January - 30 March 2017

## A Word from Our New Ambassador

30 March 2017

Assalamualaikum WBT,



I officially took office as the 15<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Ambassador to the United States on 4 January 2017. Having had the privilege of serving the country as a Royal Malaysian Air Force fighter pilot, businessman and politician, it gives me great pride to now be chosen to represent Malaysia at the highest level of its diplomatic relations with the United States. I also had the opportunity to meet and learn firsthand from the experiences of my predecessors in preparation for my vocation.

I wish to thank His Majesty DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di Pertuan Agong, the YAB Prime Minister of Malaysia, for their trust; and appreciation to former Ambassador Dato Dr Awang Adek Hussin, a friend whose contributions had been instrumental in bringing the Malaysia-United States relationship to the level that is today. He leaves behind a legacy that will challenge me to do my best, judging from the wonderful things said of him from counterparts, leaders and officials alike.

I am blessed to be supported by a good working team comprising of members from 12 agencies under the Malaysian Embassy in Washington DC. I am of the view that it is the hard work, dedication, commitment and cooperation from the working team that will be instrumental to contribute towards achieving the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs vision and the Embassy's R.E.W. (Reach-Out, Engage & Work-With) objective of inclusiveness in international diplomacy.

2017 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of bilateral relations between Malaysia and the United States. A great deal of substantial achievements have been possible due to the cooperation and friendship established between both countries over the years. We have had multiple visits from leaders of both countries respectively, strong cooperation in promoting robust trade, investment, socio-cultural exchanges, security and defense, agriculture, people to people and in other areas that have resulted in the upgraded relationship to that of the current Comprehensive Partnership level Malaysia now enjoys with the United States. Malaysia has been and will always be keen to play a strategic role as a modern, moderate and multi-cultural country, specially as a partner to the United States in countering terrorism and religious extremism.

Past achievements must never be taken for granted and I look forward to the future and its opportunities to further strengthen our relationship. In adding to the list of bilateral visits, the Malaysian Embassy to the United States welcomed Dato' Seri Anifah Aman, Malaysia's Foreign Minister recently; who was here to attend the Foreign Ministerial Meeting against Daesh. The Embassy has also planned a calendar filled year with events and programs to commemorate this pertinent milestone. We are looking forward to having a great 2017 here at the Malaysian Embassy in Washington DC.

### In This Issue

- Welcoming words from the Ambassador
  - MWWashington; What we do
  - MWWashington; Info
  - MWWashington; At a Glance

*Note: Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique arrived in Washington D.C. on 4 January 2017 and was accepted as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary by President Barack Obama on 18 January 2017.*

# MWWashington: What we do

## Arrival of H.E. Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique

4 January 2017

The Embassy of Malaysia in Washington DC was honoured and jubilant to welcome its new Ambassador on 4 January 2017. His Excellency Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique was received by all HBS of Wisma Putra as well as Heads of Department of other Ministries and Agencies under the Embassy. Later in the evening, Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Shaiful Anuar Mohammad hosted a dinner in honour of His Excellency at his residence.



Monthly Assembly

6 January 2017

The Embassy had its first Monthly Assembly for the year 2017. The assembly was attended by all of the Embassy's Officers, Staff and Locally Recruited Staff. It was also the first assembly presided by Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique.

# MWWashington: What we do

## Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States



20 January 2017

The United States and the world over witnessed the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the 45th President of the United States. The historic ceremony which took place at the U.S. Capitol was attended by hundreds of thousands of American, leaders, senior officials, and the Diplomatic Corp.

H.E. Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique attended the ceremony with YBhg. Puan Sri Noriah Anna Razak.

## Call by H.E. Ambassador on President Donald Trump

24 February 2017

H.E. Ambassador paid a call on President Donald Trump at the Blair House, as part of the Luncheon in honor of newly accredited Ambassadors to the United States hosted by Ms. Rosemarie Pauli, Acting Chief of Protocol.



*To Ambassador Zulhasnan Bin Rafique  
With best wishes,*

# MWWashington: What we do



**Malaysia-American Society AGM and Gala Dinner**

**27 January 2017**

The Embassy of Malaysia in Washington DC opened its doors to welcome The Malaysia-American Society (MAS) for its Annual General Meeting and Gala Dinner. MAS President, Dr. Lynn Juhl in his remarks, anticipated the close working relations under the leadership of H.E. Tan Sri Zulhasnan to continue. The AGM and Gala Dinner was attended by about 60 members.



**Presentation of Credentials**

**9 January 2017**

His Excellency Tan Sri Dr. Hj. Zulhasnan Rafique presented copies of his credentials to Mr. Mark E. Walsh, Acting Chief of Protocol.

## **Farewell for Departing Colleagues**



**27 January 2017**

The Embassy of Malaysia held a farewell luncheon to honour and celebrate four of its officers and staff whom will be returning to Malaysia as well as switching career paths.

The four are: SAC Ahmad Ramdzan Daud, Police Attache, Ms. Siti Harlena Harris Lee, Second Secretary (Trade), Ms. Nurul Emmylia Hazrina, PA to Agriculture Counselor, and Mr. Vilmorando Pagara, Locally Recruited Staff at Trade Office.

The Embassy would like to thank them for their contributions and wish them the best in the future endeavors.

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# MWWashington: What we do



**Heads of Department Meeting**

**9 February 2017**

The Embassy of Malaysia held its second Heads of Department Meeting on 9 February 2017. The Meeting that was chaired by H.E. Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique also saw the participation of Malawakil New York and Malawakil Los Angeles via video conference.



**Visit of Inspector General of Police**

**14 February 2017**

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, Inspector General of Police, undertook a working visit to Washington D.C. to among others, to officiate the Police Attaché office within the Chancery Building of the Embassy of Malaysia in Washington D.C.

H.E. Ambassador Zulhasnan hosted a dinner for Tan Sri IGP at Rumah Malaysia on 14 February 2017.



**PERWAKILAN Washington D.C.'s Annual General Meeting**

**25 February March 2017**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of PERWAKILAN WDC 2017 was officiated by Ambassador Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique. The meeting which was held in the Tun Hussein Hall, was attended by the Chairperson of PERWAKILAN WDC, YBhg. Puan Sri Siti Nooriah Anna Ab Razak, members of PERWAKILAN WDC, as well as Heads of Department.

# MWWashington: What we do



**USABC Meeting**

**15 March 2017**

H.E. Ambassador engaged in a discussion with US-ASEAN Business Council members. During the session, that was moderated by its Vice President (Policy) Marc Mealy, the USABC conveyed how American companies are eager to continue doing business in Malaysia and keen to pursue further business opportunities. H.E. Ambassador looks forward to the USABC's Business Mission to Malaysia from 27-29 March 2017.



**Meeting with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

**15 March 2017**

Photo op after a fruitful discussion between H.E. Ambassador and Tami Overby, Senior Vice President for Asia and John Gayer, Director for Southeast Asia at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber of commerce in the world.



**Farewell of Mr. Kathiravan**

**17 March 2017**

The Embassy organized a farewell luncheon to bid goodbye to its First Secretary (Politic) Mr. Kathiravan Subramaniam who will be resuming his duties in Wisma Putra. The luncheon was also to welcome ACP Mohd Taufik Toh Abdullah, Police Attaché and also Mr. Mohd Firdaus Mohd Ali, Second Secretary (Economic).



**PERWAKILAN Bollywood Farewell and Birthday Celebration**

**16 March 2017**

PERWAKILAN organized a Bollywood themed farewell for two of its members who will be leaving, Mrs. Pazilah Yahaya and Mrs. Puvana Arul Arumugam. The event also celebrated all those who were born in the months of January, February and March.

# MWWashington: What we do

## Working Visit of YB Foreign Minister

**20 March 2017**

The Embassy of Malaysia welcomed Dato' Sri Anifah Hj Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia and YBhg. Datin Sri Siti Rubiah Abdul Samad to Washington D.C. from 20- 22 March 2017. YB Foreign Minister was in town to attend the Meeting of the Ministers of the Global Coalition on the Defeat of ISIS, hosted by the United States Department of State

Apart from attending the meeting, YB FM also had a meeting with the Honourable Rex Tillerson, U.S. Secretary of State.



# MWWashington: Info

## NEW KING FOR MALAYSIA



**SULTAN MUHAMMAD V**

### About Sultan Muhammad V:

Date of birth: 6 October 1969

Education: Sultan Ismail School (76-81)

Alice Smith School (83)

Oakham School UK (89)

Oxford University (89-91)

Courses at Huron University College,  
Deutsche Stiftung Internationale  
Entwicklung, European Business  
School London.

Hobbies: Horse-riding, reading, golfing, shooting, badminton, bowling, football, 4WD expeditions



**Dinner with SPBYDPA in San Diego, Feb 2017**

All Malaysian Ambassadors will henceforth receive their credentials from Sultan Muhammad V.

The new *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* (King) of Malaysia, Sultan Muhammad V, took his oath of office on 13 December 2016 in a simple yet highly symbolic ceremony at the *Istana Negara* (National Palace).

Also in attendance were the Conference of Rulers or their representatives, i.e. the Sultans and the *Yang di-Pertua Negeri* (rulers) of the other states in Malaysia. The ceremony itself was chaired by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Malaysia practices a constitutional monarchy system, with the post of the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* rotated among the nine Sultans in Malaysia. The decision of which of the nine will be the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* is made by the Conference of Rulers, taking into account a number of factors including the principle of geographical rotation.

Once appointed, the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* presides over all federal ceremonies involving the monarchy, and is resides at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur. In his own home state, a regent will be appointed to oversee state ceremonial matters.

Sultan Muhammad V becomes the 15<sup>th</sup> *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* of Malaysia, corresponding with 60 years of Malaysia's independence. The last time a Sultan of Kelantan was the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* was in 1975, in the form of Sultan Muhammad V's grandfather.

The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah (pix below), was officially appointed as the Deputy *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* at the same ceremony.



# MWWashington: Info

## 2050 NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



The 2050 National Transformation or *Transformasi Nasional* (TN50) is a new 30-year transformation plan for Malaysia. It is a new vision for Malaysia, announced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia during the 2017 Budget. TN50 aims to transform Malaysia into a nation of caliber with a new mindset. TN50 will span three decades, and the youths of all races will form the core of this new transformation plan.

On 19 January 2017, the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, launched the first series of national discourse to chart the nation's direction on a new canvas as the 2050 National Transformation with some 500 youth leaders at Dewan Tunku Canselor, University Malaya. The general goal for TN50 is for Malaysia to become a top 20 country in the world by the year 2050.

In the run up to the unveiling of TN50 in 2019, there will be a series of discussions on what the Malaysian identity should be by 2050 – in terms of how Malaysians view themselves as diverse Malaysians.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is tasked to collect views from youths in the first few months of this year, before moving on to other groups. The year 2017 will be spent collecting views from public with 2018 the year for the Government to have more focused discussions with experts to see whether the views and suggestions are realistic. Near the end of the next year or early 2019, the Government will form a policy document on TN50 to be announced by the Prime Minister.

***“Let TN50 bear witness; (let it) be recorded in history that we are responsible citizens and forefathers, to leave behind the best and the greatest legacy to be inherited by future generations. “From now on, TN50 is our lucky charm. Let the old legacy pass. The future of Malaysia, we will recreate,”*** - Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, 21 October 2016.

TN50 will be the roadmap, after Vision 2020 that will transform the country's economy, citizen well-being, environment, technology, social interaction, governance and public administration.

# MalWashington: At a Glance



Chinese New Year Celebration hosted by Malaysian Association of America (MAA)  
Flushing, New York, 29 January



Visit of H.E. Ambassador to Los Angeles, 3 February

# MWWashington: At A Glance



Visit of H.E. Ambassador to Chicago, 13 February



National Assembly of Malaysian Students in America (NAMSA) Meeting in Chicago, 12 February

# MWWashington: At a Glance



## H.E. Ambassador's Visit to ADAMS Center

**3 March 2017**

H.E. Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique alongside all male officers and staff of the Embassy visited the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center in Sterling, Virginia for Friday Prayers as well as to attend a special prayers for the victims of the MH370 and MH17 incident, organized by the center. During the event, Ambassador thanked the center for its initiative in remembering the victims of the tragic incident. He also presented a contribution on behalf of Amal Wangsa Foundation to ADAMS.

Dato' Dr Nasharudin Mat Isa, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) who was also undertaking a working visit to Washington D.C. also joined the event.



## H.E. Ambassador's Visit to New York

**7 March 2017**

H.E. Ambassador undertook a familiarization visit to New York to visit all the Malaysian Government Agencies which includes the Permanent Mission of New York to the United Nations, Consulate General of New York, MAT-RADE, MIDA, Immigration Department, Tourism Malaysia, Maybank and Bank Negara .

The main purpose of the visit was to learn the Agencies' day to day operation and management.

# MWWashington: At A Glance



Courtesy Calls by H.E. Ambassador on Ambassadors of ASEAN Countries as well as Ambassadors of countries around the Asia Pacific and gulf region.

# MWWashington: At A Glance



East Coast Festival (ECFEST), Pennsylvania State University, 10-12 March 2017

*Until the next edition!*