

INSTALLATION OF THE 12th YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG

Supplement



RICH HISTORY ... Istana Negara was built in 1928 for millionaire Chan Wing. It was later used as an Officers' Mess Hall during the Japanese Occupation. (Right) The Dewan Mengadap is where the King receives honoured guests such as Heads of States and foreign dignitaries.



A King's home

THE Istana Negara, the official residence of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, used to be a millionaire's mansion.

Built in 1928 for Chan Wing, it was later used as an Officers' Mess Hall during the Japanese Occupation. After the Japanese had surrendered, it was bought by the Selangor government, which had plans to renovate it to become the Selangor Sultan's official residence.

The Federal Government then bought the palace in 1957 and it underwent heavy renovation weeks before the proclamation of independence. It was then converted into a palace for the first Agong, Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Muhammad of Negri Sembilan.

The renovation was conducted for the princely sum of 328,000 dollars with 60 workers under the supervision of architect E. K. Dinsdale, who was charged with works on the building and its terraced grounds.

The furnishings and fittings were of contemporary design - brought from Singapore, together with carpets, linen, crockery and cutlery.

From the United States came the air-conditioners; curtains from France; electrical fittings from Germany; kitchen equipment, porcelain, crystal, sterling silver and cutlery from Britain; venetian blinds from Hong Kong and wall tiles from Japan and Spain.

In July 1980, extensions to the palace, including a new main throne hall with a seven-tiered throne, were completed in time for the installation of the 7th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'adzam Shah of Pahang.

The renovations, which were supervised by Works Department Senior Architect, Capt David Wee, were completed in less than seven months when the usual time needed to complete the works would have been about three years.

ROYAL THRONE

Wee and his workers also travelled throughout the country to get the design inspiration for the Royal Throne or *Singgahsana*.

The final design of the throne was the brainchild of a collection of ideas from the Works Department; Youth and Sports Ministry; Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry and the then Institut Teknologi Mara.

The 16-foot high and 36-foot wide throne is made of *cengal* wood and as far as possible, was constructed without the use of nails.

Elaborately decorated and bathed in yellow, the whole structure is pointed upwards to show gratitude and honour to God.

Locally inspired motives, which were carved by traditional sculptors from Kota Baru, pattern the pillars to show creativity and the country's inspiration towards unity, peace and prosperity.

FUNCTION ROOMS AND FACILITIES

THE yellow-domed Istana Negara, with a cypress and casuarina-lined driveway, sits on a 28-hectare piece of land.

It houses two main halls - the *Balairong Seri* and the *Dewan Mengadap* - on the first floor.

The *Balairong Seri*, or also known as the Throne Room, is used for installation ceremonies and other formal functions such as the swearing-in of Ministers and receiving credentials from High Commissioners or Ambassadors to Malaysia.

Banquets and dinner functions with foreign dignitaries and ministers are also held in this room, which can cater to about 900 guests.

The *Dewan Mengadap* is where the King receives honoured guests such as Heads of States and foreign dignitaries.

The hall doubles up as a resting place for Sultans and Yang di-Pertua Negeri during the Ruler's conference.

Apart from the two main halls, there is the *Dewan Kecil* or Small Hall, *Bilik Menteri* or Minister's Room, *Bilik Duta* or Ambassador's Room and *Bilik Permaisuri* or Queen's Room.

Bilik Duta is where the King grants audience to the Prime Minister and also where guests like ambassadors and ministers are received.

The Queen receives her guests at *Bilik Permaisuri* while the *Bilik Menteri* is a rest room for guests.

The Ruler's conference is held at *Bilik Mesyuarat Raja-Raja*, which is located in the west wing.

Facilities at Istana Negara include a clinic (medical and dental), gymnasium, tennis court, badminton hall, police station and four government quarters (located behind the palace).

Daulat Tuanku




Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations on the Installation of

His Majesty The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII
Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail,
*D.N.R., D.N., S.S.P.J., I.A.R.M., I.A.M.N., D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan),
 D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Terengganu) S.P.M.I., S.P.C.M., S.S.M.T.
 Grand Order of King Vimaladitya (Umatia)*

and

Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong
Tuanku Fauziah binti Al-Marhum Tengku Abdul Rashid
D.K., S.S.P.J., S.P.M.P., D.M.N.

as

His Majesty The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII

From



hotel Equatorial

KUALA LUMPUR • BANGI • PENANG • MELAKA • CAMERON HIGHLANDS