

Tuanku Muhriz chairs Rulers conference

KUALA LUMPUR: The Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan, Tuanku Muhriz Idris Almarhum Tuanku Munawir, chaired the 248th meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara.

The two-day meeting, which began yesterday, was attended by all the Malay Rulers.

Kelantan was represented by the Regent of Kelantan, Tengku Dr Muhammad Faiz Petra, Pahang by the Regent of Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, and Johor by the Tunku Temenggong of Johor, Tunku Idris Iskandar

Sultan Ibrahim.

The Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Penang, Melaka, Sabah and Sarawak also attended the meeting.

The meeting, which began at 10.30am, was also attended by the mentris besar and chief ministers.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Taib Mahmud received his instrument of appointment to continue his service for four years from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Muhammad V at Istana Negara.

The ceremony to confer the instrument of appointment to the

Sarawak Yang di-Pertua Negeri was also attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

This marks Abdul Taib's second term as Sarawak Yang di-Pertua Negeri.

On March 1, 2014, he was sworn in as the seventh Sarawak Yang di-Pertua Negeri after stepping down as Sarawak chief minister on Feb 28, 2014.

Abdul Taib was the state's fourth chief minister and held the post for 33 years after he succeeded his uncle Tun Abdul Rahman Ya'kub on March 26, 1981. — Bernama



Royal entrance: Terengganu Ruler Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin (left) conversing with Tuanku Muhriz as they arrive at Istana Besar. Also present are (background, from left) Kedah Ruler Sultan Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and Perak Ruler Sultan Nazrin Shah. — Bernama

'Design cities with the long term in mind'

Innovation a vital factor in urbanisation, says minister

KUALA LUMPUR: Cities and territories should be designed innovatively with a long-term vision of a sound green economy, protection of cultures and inclusive cities for all, says Tan Sri Noh Omar.

The Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister said urbanisation had been recognised as one of the 21st century's most transformative trends and would have a great effect on the social, economic, political and environmental aspects of society.

"Presently, more than 50% of the world's population now lives in cities and urban areas.

"The fact that urbanisation is the agenda for this forum acknowledges that cities are important engines of growth," he told participants of the 9th World Urban Forum (WUF 9) assemblies at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday.

Officiating at the joint opening of the WUF 9 assemblies for Women, Business, Children and Youth, Noh said Malaysia was committed to supporting and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals objectives and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) action plans to ensure that cities were safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable with good efficient urban governance.



Sustainable beauty: Tourists admiring the Urban Brain Bamboo Pavilion, one of the attractions at the WUF9 Village in Medan Pasar, Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama

He said all implementing agencies must understand their roles in achieving a common goal and coordinate their efforts through inter-ministerial, regional and local government committees.

Noh said the assembly would be a legacy of WUF 9 as it offered space to grassroots leaders to champion the delivery of NUA in their cities and communities around the world.

"The Grassroots Assembly is the first and I am happy it is birthed in Kuala Lumpur.

"The Joint Assembly is a pivotal activity intended to showcase and accelerate leadership in grassroots communities to improve the quality of life in their settlements and cities," he added.

Noh also hoped that the assemblies would come up with practical and strategic actions to improve living and working conditions in informal settlements and economies, as well as ensure that urban poor communities were well organised and taken care of.

WUF 9 brings together thousands

of stakeholders to share practices and knowledge on how cities are built, planned and managed.

About 25,000 people from 194 countries have gathered in Kuala Lumpur for the week-long forum.

The biennial forum is also a platform to discuss and present commitments, strategies and innovations, identify institutional roles, as well as pursue partnerships in the implementation of the NUA.

During the opening ceremony earlier, Noh and United Nations Human Settlements Programme

executive director Datuk Maimunah Mohd Sharif witnessed the raising of the Jalur Gemilang and United Nations flags.

WUF 9, which ends on Feb 13, is being held for the second time in Asia and will hold over 500 events, including assemblies, high-level roundtable talks, dialogues and special sessions.

Themed "Cities 2030, Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda", the forum hosted by Kuala Lumpur will focus on implementing the NUA. — Bernama

UN offices in Malaysia now located in Putrajaya

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PUTRAJAYA: The United Nations offices in Malaysia are now calling the federal administrative capital home after operating from Kuala Lumpur for the past 30 years.

From Wisma UN in Bukit Damansara, which opened in 1988, the UN offices - The UN Resident Coordinator, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) - are now located

at Menara PJH in Precinct 2 here.

The new offices were opened by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, who reiterated Malaysia's continuous commitment to work with them to ensure development and progress on all fronts.

"I believe the relocation of UN offices to Putrajaya will further contribute towards enhancing the circle of networking and strengthen cooperation between UN personnel and the various Malaysian government ministries and agencies.

"Malaysia strongly believes that

the UN plays an imperative role as a platform for international cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect and international law," Anifah said in his address.

Listing Malaysia's role as a UN member since September 1957, he said the country actively promoted the three founding pillars of the UN system - peace and security, human rights and development.

"We have also played an effective role in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace during our non-permanent membership in the UN

Security Council on four occasions.

"This is apart from active participation in UN peacekeeping missions since 1960," he added.

To date, Malaysia has participated in 36 such missions with over 35,000 military and police personnel deployed.

UN Resident Coordinator for Malaysia Stefan Priesner said the move to Putrajaya saw the UN being better positioned to impact policies and the Government's efforts in line with national priorities, international standards and commitments

towards sustainable development.

"The UN has been a development partner to Malaysia.

"Combining Malaysian and international expertise, the UN system is able to offer world-class technical assistance and policy advisory services to support the country's aspirations to become a developed nation and be at the forefront of delivering on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its other international commitments," Priesner said.

Weather							Prayer times						
	GEORGE TOWN	K. LUMPUR	JOHOR BARU	KOTA BARU	K. KINABALU	KUCHING	ALOR SETAR	PENANG	K. LUMPUR	JOHOR BARU	KUANTAN	KOTA BARU	
AM	No rain	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Rain	6:18	6:17	6:10	5:59	6:04	6:14	
PM	No rain	Rain	Rain	Cloudy	Thunderstorm	Rain	13:35	13:35	13:30	13:22	13:25	13:28	
							16:55	16:56	16:50	16:41	16:45	16:48	
							19:31	19:32	19:29	19:22	19:24	19:24	
							20:42	20:43	20:40	20:33	20:35	20:31	