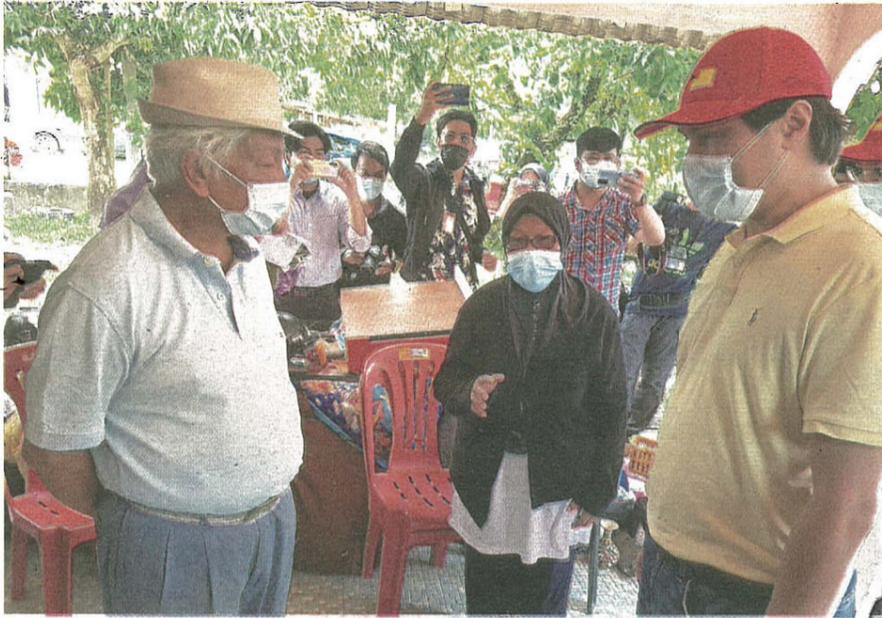


# Charitable and musically inclined

Tuanku Muhriz giving words of encouragement to Puziyah Abdul Aziz during a visit to her home in Kg Semarak which was affected by flash floods in November last year. Looking on is Tunku Ali (right).



TUANKU Muhriz Tuanku Munawir, the grandson of the country's first Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Rahman Tuanku Muhammad, was born in the royal town of Seri Menanti on this day in 1948.

At the tender age of 12, Tuanku Muhriz was appointed Tunku Laxamana and a year later, elevated to the position of Tunku Besar Seri Menanti (the most senior rank among the Putera Yang Empat) – a title he held until his ascension to the throne as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan on October 26, 2009.

The Ruler spent much of his formative years in Negri Sembilan, attending the Tuanku Muhammad School in Kuala Pilah, Tunku Besar School in Tampin and later, King George V Secondary School in Seremban.

When Tuanku Muhriz's father Tuanku Munawir Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan passed away in 1967, the then young prince was barely out of his teens.

The mantle of Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan was assumed by his uncle Tuanku Ja'afar Tuanku Abdul Rahman, who held the role for four decades until his passing in 2008.

The young prince went on to pursue his O- and A-Levels at England's Aldenham School – a school steeped in tradition and history, and known for providing its students with an all-round education. It was at school that Tuanku Muhriz's love for music was nurtured, and where the young prince began performing with his own band – The Prince and the Paupers.

The Ruler still very much enjoys strumming his guitar, having fine-tuned his guitar-playing skills in the 1990s.

After completing his studies at Aldenham School, the Ruler took up law at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (now, Aberystwyth University) – a prestigious university that counts among its alumni the United Kingdom's Prince Charles.

Tuanku Muhriz graduated with an LLB (Hons) in 1970, and was conferred an Honorary Fellowship by Aberystwyth University in 2014.

Upon graduation, the Ruler returned to Malaysia and joined the corporate sector, building a career that spanned the fields of banking, finance and advertising.

On April 25, 1974, Tuanku Muhriz tied the knot with Tunku Ampuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Aishah Rohani Tengku Besar Mahmud, a member of the

Terengganu royalty.

The royal couple were blessed with three princes – Tunku Ali Redhauddin, Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin and Tunku Alif Hussein Saifuddin Al-Amin.

While raising his young family, Tuanku Muhriz also played an active role in non-profit and charitable organisations.

As a member of the Rotary Club Kuala Lumpur Diraja, the Ruler dedicated much of his time and effort to causes close to his heart, including education, healthcare and social welfare.

The Ruler's untiring efforts to improve the welfare of the underprivileged have not gone unnoticed.

One of the country's foremost teaching hospitals, the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre was renamed Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz (HCTM) in honour of the royal.

In 2016, the Ruler was bestowed an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in recognition of his dedication to the advancement of surgery and support of healthcare projects in aid of impoverished communities in Malaysia.

The award is the institution's highest and recipients include former United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan.

Tuanku Muhriz's interests, especially in the fields of education and welfare, are shared by his family, who lend their support in various capacities to many organisations, including universities and non-profits.

Tuanku Aishah Rohani serves as the royal patron of the Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur – a branch of International Inner Wheel, one of the largest women's service voluntary organisations in the world, and is also the Chancellor of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM).

The couple's eldest son, Tunku Besar Seri Menanti Tunku Ali Redhauddin Tuanku Muhriz, continues his parents' charitable work in his role as the Yayasan Munarah board of trustees chairman.

Born on April 26, 1977, the dashing prince completed his GCSE and A-Levels at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, England, before pursuing a degree in History and Social and Political Science at Cambridge University, after which he joined McKinsey & Company in London as a management consultant.

Since his return to Malaysia, Tunku Ali has worked with many organisations.

The prince is currently on the board of trustees of Teach for Malaysia, a non-profit dedicated to ensuring Malaysian children have equal educational opportunities, no matter their status.

He has also completed a Master in Public Administration at Harvard Kennedy School, the public policy and public administration school of the prestigious Harvard University in the United States, and is a pro-chancellor of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

The royal couple's second prince Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin was born on July 6, 1982.

Like his older brother, the prince spent his formative years at Marlborough College.

Tunku Zain furthered his education at the London School of Economics and Political Science, graduating with an honours degree in Sociology and Government, and later, with an MSc in Comparative Politics.

The prince is the founding president of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), and sits on the board of several corporations as well as non-profit organisations.

A columnist, gifted musician and avid sportsman, Tunku Zain is equally comfortable with pen, piano and squash racquet.

Those who read this paper will be familiar with the prince's column #ABIDINIDEAS, where he pens his thoughts on current events and social issues.

The prince is a trustee of Yayasan Munarah, Yayasan Chow Kit, and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

He is also the president of the Negri Sembilan Squash Association and a royal fellow of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

The royal couple's third child, Tunku Alif Hussein Saifuddin Al-Amin, was born on Sept 3, 1984.

During the prince's childhood, Tuanku Muhriz and Tuanku Aishah took up courses in the therapy and treatment of children with special needs in the United States in order to give Tunku Alif, who was born with special needs, the best possible care.

Hands-on parents, the couple devised a tailor-made programme to help nurture their son's capabilities and enhance his quality of life.

Tunku Alif was doted on by his parents and older brothers until his passing on Jan 15, 2016.

The royals continue to support awareness and education for individuals with special needs.



A file photo of Tuanku Muhriz playing the guitar with the members of his band, The Prince and the Paupers, while studying at the Aldenham School in the United Kingdom.



A file picture of a young Tuanku Muhriz with his father, the former state ruler Tuanku Munawir.



A file photo of Tuanku Muhriz and Tuanku Aishah Rohani with their three children, Tunku Ali (left), Tunku Zain and Tunku Alif (seated).