

Zara Salim now Raja Puan Besar Perak

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KUALA KANGSAR: Zara Salim Davidson, consort of the Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, was proclaimed Raja Puan Besar Perak in a ceremony at Istana Iskandariah in Bukit Chandan yesterday.

She is now addressed as Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Puan Besar Perak Darul Ridzuan, Tuanku Zara Salim.

The brief ceremony, which began about 10am, was attended by members of the Perak royalty and about 200 dignitaries.

The Territorial Chief of Kuala Kangsar, Datuk Seri Wan Fathir Wan Hussain, read out the proclamation before Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak.

The title of Raja Puan Besar Perak had been vacant for the past two decades.

Clad in a long golden kebaya, Tuanku Zara was accompanied by Tunku Soraya Sultan Abdul Halim and Datuk Seri Noraini Jane when she appeared before Sultan Azlan Shah to receive the letter of proclamation.

At the same ceremony, Sultan Azlan Shah also bestowed upon Tuanku Zara the Darjah Kerabat Seri Paduka Sultan Azlan Shah Perak Yang Dihormati (DKSA), the highest award specially given to a member of the royal family.

This was witnessed by Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Bainun, the raja muda, Raja Dihilir Perak Raja Datuk Seri Jaafar Raja Muda Musa and Tuanku Zara's parents, Salim Davidson and Sharifah Azaliah Syed Omar Shahabudin.

Also present were Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali and his wife, state exco members and heads of government department.

Later in the afternoon, sev-



The Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah also witnessed the conferring of the Darjah Kerabat Seri Paduka Sultan Azlan Shah Perak Yang Dihormati upon his consort, Tuanku Zara Salim, the newly proclaimed Raja Puan Besar Perak.

eral thousand orphans, inmates of old folks homes and the underprivileged were treated to lunch at 17 locations in the state.

The lunches were sponsored by well-wishers, including the Perak Water Board, the Perak Turf Club, privately-owned companies and individuals to celebrate the royal wedding.

At the Madrasah Idrisiah school in Bukit Chandan, 50 orphans were among the 530 students who enjoyed a spread sponsored by Metropolitan Utilities Berhad.

Assistant student head Mohd Azam Mohd Adam, 17, was



Metropolitan Utilities Berhad chairman Datuk Mohd Anuar Zaini serving the students of Madrasah Idrisiah school.

clearly overjoyed by the treat.

"In my five years here as a student, this is the first time that someone has actually come forward to give us a

good meal."

Schoolmate Mohd Ashraf Sharollaili, 15, agreed and said: "We are also excited by the TV and media attention."



Tun Dr Mahathir and Tun Dr Siti Hasmah keep up with the newsmakers from his room at IJN. — Bernama picture

Congratulations, say Dr M, wife

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is recuperating from breathing difficulties at the National Heart Institute (IJN), yesterday congratulated the Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, on his marriage to Tuanku Zara Salim.

The former prime minister and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, followed developments of the royal wedding in the newspapers from Room 11 of the coronary care unit.

"I feel much better now," he told Bernama in an interview, but added that he was not sure when he would be discharged from the premier heart centre.

He thanked the doctors and staff of IJN and Langkawi Hospital for taking good care of him.

Dr Mahathir, who complained of breathing difficulties while on a two-day private visit to Langkawi on Monday, was transferred to IJN on Tuesday from Langkawi Hospital.

Dr Siti Hasmah also thanked the people, including

the Langkawi folk who prayed for her husband's speedy recovery at special sessions at mosques on the tourist island.

Dr Mahathir said he could now walk around his bed in his room, and was not feeling dizzy nor having difficulty in breathing.

"I also have no dietary restrictions," he said cheerfully, occasionally cracking jokes with his personal staff in his room.

Dr Mahathir said that once he was discharged, he would ease up on his hectic schedule, on the advice of his personal physician and IJN's consultant cardiologist Datuk Dr Nasir Muda.

Dr Nasir said Dr Mahathir would be at IJN for a few more days, but did not give a definite date on when the former prime minister would be discharged.

"Dr Mahathir needs to undergo chest physiotherapy daily and must be under doctors' observation." — Bernama