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King, Queen leave for Haj pilgrimage

SEPANG: Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah left yesterday to perform the Haj pilgrimage.

The special aircraft carrying Their Majesties and an entourage took off from the KL International Airport at 10.45 am.

Accompanying Their Majesties were the Tunku Temenggong of Kedah, Tan Sri Tunku Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah (member of the Kedah Council of Regency) and the Toh Puan Temenggong of Kedah, Puan Sri Tengku Maliha Tengku Ariff, Their Majesties daughters, the Tunku Panglima Besar of Kedah, Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz (member of the Kedah Council of Regency)

and Datuk Seri Diraja Tunku Soraya and Datuk Seri Iskandar Dzulkarnain Sultan Idris Shah.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom also

accompanied Their Majesties. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor had an audience with Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Tuanku Hajah Haminah at the Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur to wish Their Majesties a safe journey.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and his wife Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman as well as Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak were at the airport to bid farewell to Their Majesties.

The 'Negaraku' national anthem was played and a 21-gun salute was fired at the sending-off ceremony at the airport.

Tuanku Abdul Halim inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by four officers and 103 men of the 1st Battalion, Royal Malay Regiment. Federal Territory Mufti Datuk Wan Zahidi Wan Teh read the 'doa selamat'.

Istana Negara public relations officer Muhd Khairi Abd Rahman said Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah were scheduled to meet Malaysian Haj pilgrims at the Tabung Haji headquarters in Mecca on Monday. Their Majesties were scheduled to return to Malaysia on 31 Oct, he added. - Bernama

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THE Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah (right) and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah waving to the people before boarding the aircraft yesterday. PHOTO: BERNAMA