

**KEBAWAH DULI YANG MAHA MULIA
SERI PADUKA BAGINDA RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG
RAJA ZARITH SOFIAH**

KDYMM SPB Raja Permaisuri Agong Raja Zarith Sofiah telah diputerakan pada 14 Ogos 1959 di Hospital Batu Gajah, Perak. Baginda merupakan puteri kedua dan anakanda ketiga kepada Almarhum Sultan Perak, Paduka Seri Sultan Idris Shah II dan Almarhumah Raja Perempuan Perak, Raja Perempuan Muzwin Binti Almarhum Raja Dato' Sri Ariff Shah.

Apabila Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah II menaiki takhta sebagai Sultan Perak pada tahun 1963, Baginda sekeluarga mula bersemayam di Istana Iskandariah, Bukit Chandan.

Seri Paduka Baginda telah menerima pendidikan awal di Sekolah Kebangsaan Datin Khadijah, Kuala Kangsar dan kemudiannya menyambung pendidikan menengah Baginda di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Raja Perempuan Kalsom, juga di Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

Pada bulan September 1972, Raja Zarith Sofiah telah menyambung pelajaran di Cheltenham Ladies' College, England. Pada tahun 1979, Seri Paduka Baginda mengikuti pengajian peringkat Ijazah Sarjana Muda di Somerville College, University of Oxford, sehingga dikurniakan Ijazah 'Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Studies' pada tahun 1983.

Seri Paduka Baginda mewarisi minat dan bakat seni ayahanda Baginda terutamanya dalam seni lukis. Baginda pernah menyertai beberapa pameran seni seperti pameran Galeri Seni Yayasan Warisan Johor (2003) dan pameran seni anjuran Maybank Kuala Lumpur yang memberi penghormatan kepada tiga generasi seniman Johor (2004).

Seri Paduka Baginda juga merupakan seorang penulis yang prolific dan pernah mempunyai ruang akhbar khusus iaitu 'On Common Ground' untuk New Straits Times dan 'Mind Matters' untuk The Star. Baginda turut pernah menulis empat buah buku kanak-kanak pada tahun 1995.

Pada 22 September 1982, Raja Zarith Sofiah diijab kabulkan bersama KDYMM SPB Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Ibrahim, yang bergelar Tunku Mahkota Johor ketika itu, dan mendirikan rumah tangga di Istana Pasir Pelangi, Johor Bahru pada tahun 1983 selepas Raja Zarith Sofiah menamatkan pelajaran ijazah di United Kingdom. Pasangan Diraja ini telah dikurniakan 6 cahaya mata: 5 orang putera dan seorang puteri.

Semangat dan nilai-nilai kebertanggungjawaban serta dedikasi kepada tugas Diraja sememangnya telah sehati di dalam sanubari Sultan Ibrahim dan Raja Zarith Sofiah yang tidak pernah jemu melaksanakan tanggungjawab Seri Paduka Baginda berdua kepada rakyat jelata dengan penuh amanah dan ikhlas.

Sejak dari awal perkahwinan, setiap minggu akan dipenuhi dengan lawatan atau kunjungan ke daerah-daerah di negeri Johor bagi menyantuni rakyat atau bertemu dengan pemimpin-pemimpin masyarakat.

Seri Paduka Baginda telah dikurniakan gelaran Permaisuri Johor sempena Istiadat Kemahkotaan Sultan Ibrahim pada 23 Mac 2015. Selaku Permaisuri Johor, Baginda banyak terlibat dalam organisasi amal dan

Badan-badan Bukan Kerajaan (atau NGO). Seri Paduka Baginda merupakan Penasihat Diraja kepada Persatuan Bulan Sabit Merah Malaysia; Pengerusi Yayasan Raja Zarith Sofiah Negeri Johor dan Pengerusi Yayasan Kanser Tunku Laksamana Johor.

KDYMM SPB Raja Permaisuri Agong juga menunjukkan minat tinggi terhadap bidang akademik dan merupakan Canselor Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). Aspek kebajikan rakyat Johor sentiasa dititikberatkan oleh Seri Paduka Baginda, khasnya bagi golongan B40. Keprihatinan ini telah mengilhamkan pelancaran program Bangsa Johor Bahagia pada 17 Mac 2019.

Komitmen dan usaha Raja Zarith Sofiah yang berterusan dan pelbagai ke arah menambah baik taraf hidup masyarakat telah mendapat pengiktirafan antarabangsa apabila dianugerahkan ijazah kehormat daripada University of Nottingham pada tahun 2017.

Seri Paduka Baginda juga sering dijemput sebagai pengucaptama di persidangan akademik di dalam dan luar negara. Yang terbaharu, Seri Paduka Baginda menyampaikan ucapan di Persidangan Meja Bulat OCIS-UTM bertemakan “Imagining the Future: Climate Change, Health and Food Security in Muslim Societies” anjuran UTM dan Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies (OCIS) pada Mei 2023.

Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah Binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah was born on 14th August 1959 at the Batu Gajah Hospital in Perak. Her Majesty is the second daughter and third child of the late Sultan of Perak, Almarhum Paduka Seri Sultan Idris Shah II, and his consort Raja Perempuan Perak, Almarhumah Raja Perempuan Muzwin Binti Almarhum Raja Dato' Sri Ariff Shah.

When Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah II ascended the throne as the Sultan of Perak in 1963, the Perak Royal Family moved into Istana Iskandariah in Bukit Chandan.

HM Raja Zarith received her primary education at the Datin Khadijah School in Kuala Kangsar and continued her secondary education at the Raja Perempuan Kalsom School, also in Kuala Kangsar. In September 1972, she furthered her studies at the Cheltenham Ladies' College in England. In 1979, Her Majesty enrolled into Somerville College at the University of Oxford. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Studies in 1983.

HM The Queen inherited a love for painting from her father, and has taken part in a few art exhibitions. They include an art exhibition held at the Yayasan Warisan Johor Art Gallery in 2003; another organized by Maybank Kuala Lumpur in April 2004, honouring three generations of Johor artists.

Her Majesty is also a prolific writer and had her own newspaper columns - 'On Common Ground' in the New Straits Times and 'Mind Matters' in the Star. Her Majesty had also authored four children's books in 1995.

HM Raja Zarith Sofiah was betrothed to His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, King of Malaysia, on 22 September 1982, whilst he was, at the time, the Crown Prince of Johor. The royal couple began married life in 1983 at Istana Pasir Pelangi, Johor Bahru after HM Raja Zarith Sofiah graduated from her studies in the United Kingdom. Their Majesties are blessed with six children - five princes and a princess.

Their Majesties' deep sense of dedication to their royal responsibilities have been their hallmark, and they have never wavered in executing their duties with sincerity.

Weekly engagements with the people and local community leaders, as well as visits to various Johor districts have been the norm since the beginning of their marriage.

Her Majesty was accorded the title "Permaisuri of Johor" at the Coronation of both the Sultan and herself on the 23rd of March 2015. As the Permaisuri, Her Majesty works with many charitable organizations and NGOs. She is the Royal Advisor of the Malaysia Red Crescent; Chairman of the Raja Zarith Sofiah of Johor Foundation and Chairman of the Tunku Laksamana Johor Cancer Foundation.

The Queen also has a keen interest in academia and is currently the Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). Concerned for the welfare and wellbeing of the people of Johor, especially those in the B40 category, the "Bangsa Johor Bahagia" programme was launched on the 17th of March 2019 under Her Majesty's supervision and strong support.

Her Majesty's continued commitment and efforts towards the improvement of society's quality of life gained international recognition when she was conferred an honorary degree from the University of Nottingham in 2017.

HM Raja Zarith Sofiah is also keenly sought after to give keynote addresses at academic conferences locally and abroad. Most recently, in May 2023, Her Majesty spoke at the OCIS-UTM Science Roundtable themed “Imagining the Future: Climate Change, Health and Food Security in Muslim Societies”, organised by UTM and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS).