

Wedding of tradition and heritage

Princess: Ceremony to mirror grandparents' big day as way to preserve Johor's royal culture

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JOHOR BARU: The wedding of the Johor princess and Dennis Muhammad Abdullah on Aug 14 will showcase the royal family's unique traditions and heritage.

Tunku Tun Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah said this was the wish of her father, Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar.

The Johor Ruler wanted her and Dutch-born Dennis, 28, she said, to use attire similar to what was worn by his (Sultan Ibrahim's) late father Sultan Iskandar Ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail and mother Enche' Besar Kalsom Abdullah at their wedding.

"He showed me my grandparents' wedding photo and said we should emulate what they wore as a way of perpetuating Johor's royal culture and traditions.

"Otherwise, he feared our uniqueness as Johoreans will be lost forever," she said.

Despite her partly Western education at an international school in Singapore, Tunku Aminah said she would be proud to use traditional attire for her big day.

Tunku Aminah, 31, added that she was happy to follow her parents' wishes to use the *baju kurung teluk belanga*, while her husband would wear the *baju melayu teluk belanga*.

"My father would also like him to use the same two brooches on his *songkok* which my late grandfather wore at his wedding," she added.

Tunku Aminah said apart from following royal customs and traditions, the wedding would be a relatively simple but elegant event.

"I would like it to be a meaningful occasion for my family and friends. That is what matters the most to me. It does not have to be



Keeping tradition alive: Tunku Aminah and Dennis will wear traditional attire similar to the ones worn by Sultan Ibrahim's father Sultan Iskandar and mother Enche' Besar Kalsom Abdullah during their wedding on Jan 12, 1956. — Bernama

grand and lavish," she said.

Born on April 8, Tunku Aminah is the second of six siblings and the only daughter of Sultan Ibrahim and Permaisuri Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah.

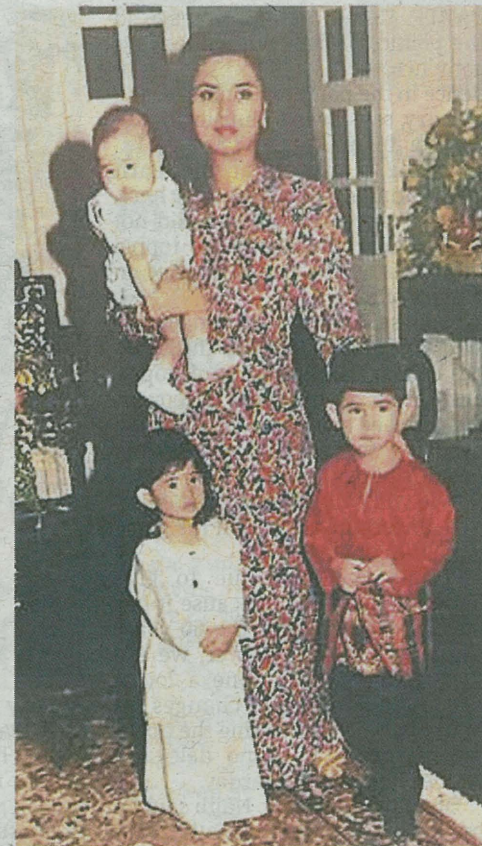
Her betrothal ceremony will be held at 10am on Aug 14 at Istana Bukit Serene followed by the solemnisation ceremony.

The *bersanding* ceremony will be held at 8pm the same day at the throne room of

Istana Besar here.

The *baju kurung teluk belanga*, as the name implies, originated from the island of Singapore, which was previously the capital of Johor.

The traditional attire was introduced in the 19th century during the reign of the late Sultan Sir Abu Bakar. It has no collar and the neckline is stitched in the style known as *tulang belut* or eel's spine.



Young royals: A photo from the royal photo album, taken in 1988, of Tunku Aminah (left) together with her mother Raja Zarith and brothers Tunku Mahkota Johor Tunku Ismail Ibni Sultan Ibrahim (right) and Tunku Temenggong Johor Tunku Idris Shah Iskandar Ibni Sultan Ibrahim. — Bernama