

is limited to 75 persons. The wife of a Tan Sri is called Puan Sri. These titles are not hereditary. It is quite acceptable to address someone holding this title simply as Tan Sri or Puan Sri (generally equivalent to Sir).

- (c) Dato (M), Datin (F) — The basic meaning of Dato is grandfather. In modern usage, however, it refers to the holder of the highest honour conveyed by the rulers of the various states. The wife of a Dato is called Datin. The title is not hereditary and holders of it may be referred to as Dato or Datin.

3. Religious

- (a) Syed (M), Sharifah (F) — Syed is the name as well as the title which traces a direct blood descendency from the Prophet. It is never omitted when addressing a Malay and all Syeds are addressed as Tuan.

- (b) Sheikh (M), Siti (F) — Sheikh is an Arab title usually passed through the male line. The title confers no special privilege or respect, but courtesy requires the use of Tuan as a prefix.

- (c) Haji (M), Hadja (F) — Haji, or Hadja in the case of a woman, is one who has made a pilgrimage to Mecca and has performed certain required acts during this pilgrimage or Haj. Hajis are accorded the honorific Tuan which is prefixed to the Haji title, i.e., Tuan Haji Abdullah, instead of Encik Haji Abdullah.

4. Mr. and Mrs. — Encik (M) and Cik (F)
Sir and Madam — Tuan (M), Puan (F)

General Information

Terms — The following usage of terms should be noted:

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| Malaysia | — refers to the name of the country |
| Malaysian | — a general term that applies to all citizens of Malaysia regardless of race |
| Malay | — refers to the specific racial group |
| Malaya | — the name used to describe the peninsula before federation in 1963 with Sabah, Sarawak, and Singapore (which later withdrew). The term is still used |