

FORMS OF ADDRESS

Malays names are often characterized by several titles and generally do not carry the same family name from one generation to the next. A name usually consists of a person's given name, father's given name and, sometimes, grandfather's given name. Some brief examples and explanations of titles follow:

Y.B.M. means Yang Berhormat Mulia and is equivalent to "The Honourable." It is used for royalty from the State of Kelantan.

Y.B. is equivalent to "The Honourable" and is short for Yang Berhormat (normally applied to M.P.s, ministers and deputy ministers) or Yang Berbahagia (applied to other notables).

Tengku and **Tunku** are different spellings of the same title and loosely equivalent to Prince/Princess.

Tun is the title given to a recipient of the country's highest order of chivalry granted to non-royal persons. The wife of a Tun is called **Toh Puan**.

Tan Sri is a title given to a recipient of Malaysia's second highest order of chivalry granted to non-royalty by the King. Generally equivalent to "Sir," it is quite acceptable to address holders of this title simply as Tan Sri. The wife of a Tan Sri is addressed **Puan Sri**.

Dato' and **Datuk** are different spellings of the same title. The basic meaning is "grandfather." In modern usage, however, it refers to the holder of the highest honour conveyed by rulers of the various states. The wife of a Datuk is addressed as **Datin**.

Tuan means Mr. and is always used in conjunction with **Haji** (see below).

Puan means Madam or Mrs.

Encik means Mr.

Cik means Miss.

bin means "son of" and **binti** means "daughter of."

Haji (**Hajjah** in the case of a woman) is one who has made a pilgrimage (Haj) to Mecca along with its requisite rites. Haji's are accorded the honorific **Tuan**, which is prefixed to the Haji title, for example, **Tuan Haji** Abdullah not Encik Haji Abdullah. Using Tuan by itself would have colonial overtones.

When addressing a Chinese or Indian Malaysian, use the same forms of address as in Canada: Mr., Mrs., Dr., Miss, Professor and so on, followed by their family name. In most instances, in ethnic Chinese names, the family name is placed before the given names. For example, in Chan Siew Wan, Chan is the family name.