

**CITATION BY PROFESSOR SIMON CHESTERMAN,  
VICE PROVOST (EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION) AND  
DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW AND NUS COLLEGE**

**PUBLIC ORATOR FOR  
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN IBRAHIM IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN ISKANDAR, SULTAN AND  
SOVEREIGN RULER OF THE STATE AND TERRITORIES OF JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM**

**RECIPIENT OF HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS**

**SPECIAL HONORARY DEGREE CONFERMENT CEREMONY BY  
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE AT THE ISTANA  
ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2022**

Madame Chancellor,

His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan and Sovereign Ruler of the State and Territories of Johor Darul Ta'zim,

Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah Binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Permaisuri Johor,

Members of the Johor Royal Family,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great honour to cite the exceptional contributions of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan and Sovereign Ruler of the state of Johor to Johor, and to Singapore-Johor relations. His Majesty's achievements cut across many fields. He is a wise monarch who has made important contributions to Johor and its people, including most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under His Majesty's strong leadership, Singapore-Johor relations have strengthened and expanded in many areas. Singapore values its close friendship with His Majesty, and his strong support for the strengthening of the unique and historical ties between Singapore and Johor.

2. His Majesty was born in November 1958 in Johor Bahru. He received his early education at *Sekolah Temenggong Abdul Rahman*, furthering his studies at Trinity Grammar School in Australia, and the Sultan Abu Bakar College in Johor Bahru. His Majesty also received his religious education at the *Sekolah Agama Bukit Zaharah* and *Sekolah Agama Air Molek*. They have provided him with a good grounding to manage religious affairs in a diverse state such as Johor. His Majesty trained as an army, navy, and air force officer, including periods at Fort Benning and Fort Bragg in the United States, and is a certified helicopter pilot and commando. His Majesty is currently the Colonel Commandant of *Grup Gerak Khas*, a special forces regiment of the Malaysian Armed Forces, and also the Commandant of the Johor Military Forces. His Majesty attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy where he took courses on Southeast Asian Strategic Studies and the International Law of the Sea. His Majesty's wide-ranging experiences at home and overseas have equipped him with an intimate grasp of governance and state affairs. His Majesty was formally proclaimed as *Tunku Mahkota* (or Crown Prince) of Johor in 1981, and as the Sultan of Johor in 2010.

3. His Majesty's love for his people is widely known. His annual tradition of the *Kembara Mahkota Johor*, which His Majesty started as *Tunku Mahkota* in 2001, is a highlight on Johor's calendar. I am sure that Johoreans are looking forward to the resumption of the *Kembara*.

4. Although the pandemic may have disrupted physical interactions, His Majesty's charity organisation, the *Yayasan Sultan Ibrahim Johor*, worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that needy Johoreans had face masks, test kits, food, and other essential items. These provided much comfort and relief for his people amidst trying times. The Singapore Government and Temasek Foundation were honoured to partner with *Yayasan Sultan Ibrahim Johor* in this effort, by contributing vaccines and other medical supplies.

5. Over the years, His Majesty has been a strong champion of Johor's unique identity, *Bangsa Johor*, which expresses a shared commitment among Johoreans to the state's progress, transcending culture and religion.

6. His Majesty has played an important role in the longstanding and close relations between Singapore and Johor. Singapore's leaders and His Majesty have enjoyed warm and close ties over the years. Prior to the pandemic, it was an annual tradition for Singapore leaders to attend the Sultan's Hari Raya Open House. In May this year, His Majesty graciously conferred Johor's highest state honour on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. His Majesty has also been a strong supporter of bringing the people on both sides of the Causeway closer together. As a testament to the strength of our ties and how intertwined we are, both sides worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to facilitate cross-border travel and supply chain continuity in a safe manner. Today, with the borders re-opened, families have reunited and Singaporeans and Johoreans have once again reconnected.

7. Today, the National University of Singapore has the great honour to pay tribute to the distinguished work of His Majesty, by conferring upon him an Honorary Doctorate. The University welcomes His Majesty as a distinguished member of our honorary list of graduates.

8. Madame Chancellor, may it please you to confer upon His Majesty, Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Sultan and Sovereign Ruler of the State and Territories of Johor Darul Ta'zim, the Degree of Doctor of Laws.