The Practices of Protocol in Malaysian Society

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to examine the protocol as rules and regulation accepted by all in daily practice, society and internationally recognized management protocol or order of priority in official ceremonies in Malaysia. This study focuses the protocol of Federal Order of Precedence in this Malaysia based on the sequence of seniority for officers in the government and non-governmental organization. It is involving the field of public relations practitioners work in Federal level, States, Federal Cabinet and an organization are directly involved as well as indirectly. This protocol involves the arrangement of the Palace of the State, Member of the State Executive Council, State agencies and Central agencies. Each one has similarities and differences in the order of priority. Professional public relations practitioners in Malaysia regularly involved in the management of events and official functions of the organization. Thus, they need to know the arrangement based on the priority of the protocol indeed the application of the protocol practice understand this in order to manage the order of priority protocols because it has been the practice for a long time especially in formal occasions and informal involving dignitaries. The official ceremonies involving protocol in the palace banquet, members of the State Executive Council and the Federal Government Agency in the seating arrangement.

Keywords: protocol, dignitaries, practitioners, priority, precedence
1.0 Introduction

Protocol is viewed as something new to the society. It is promptly dealt in administration and event management by most of the public relations practitioners. It is then essential to know protocol. According to McCaffee (1977), protocol is originated from Yunani, Protokollen which means first and sticker which denote the label that appeared on the legal documents that showed the validity. According to Abdullah (2002) protocol was originally concerned with documents. This gradually embraced the concept of something which was added to a treaty in order to perfect or complete treaty. By extension, it came to mean the technique or the proper method of doing things, including official etiquette and all forms of understanding between governments and how their representatives conduct business, behave in formal circumstances, and how to generally avoid accidental friction. As Mokhtar and Ahmad Fawzi (2003) stated that protocol is subject to changes in its usage. At one time it was referred to the formal letter, the outcome of a discussion or the agreement, as it is also mean the diplomatic rules and order.

In France, protocol is referred to the social etiquette or the set of rule that to follow and to be practiced by the country headman with the ambassadors in most of the ceremonies (The Oxford English Dictionary 1970, pg.1509). As in Larouse Illustrated International Encyclopedia and Dictionary (1972), protocol is a sequence of privilege in status as well as the proper procedures when dealing with diplomatic events. It is also viewed as a draft or the diplomatic memorandum document such as the rules or conventions of correct behaviour on official or ceremonial occasions that is agreed in the meeting to be signed.

As in our country, protocol seemingly new, however, it has been practiced for long since the olden times; it was at that time appeared as the norm and practices in the royalty (Mokhtar and Ahmad Fawzi 2003). Since the time changes, protocol is now to be understood as rules and regulation accepted by all in daily practice, society and internationally recognized. According to Abdullah (2002), protocol can be the regulation in official function that explains the sequence of positioning which is important to show the appropriateness. It is not difficult to put into practice but essentially crucial to be noticed.

2.0 The Practice of Protocol

Protocol is the rules to set daily routine to be carried out in order appropriately in the society. It is the norm of the society that is internationally accepted. It helps to put things
systematically in order, marked punctuality, pleased the guest of honour and most of all it reflect the mannerism of good behaviour in daily life.

As Muslim, it might raise the doubt if protocol is conflicting with the teaching of the religion. It has been practiced since the era of Prophet of Muhammad. According to Anas Malik, His Majesty had been using protocol when dealing with the ruler from Rome. His Majesty was informed that the ruler from Rome will not read the letter unless it is copped. Hence, a silver seal was made for that purposed (Mohd Asri 2007). This showed that Prophet of Muhammad wills customized the norm of practice of others so long as it is not conflicting with the religion. It is not at all conflicting; it helps to smooth the organization of the ceremonial event.

We too put the practice of protocol in our daily routine since thousand of years ago. However, protocol might cause inconveniences when one does not understand it well. As stated by Abdullah (2002), “everyone wish to be recognized and to be respected in the society”. Protocol in our country seems to be complex as it involves protocol that is recognized by the monarchy, 13 states governments and a Federal Government and the international relationship and affairs. It is indeed important to know the protocol to enhance the appropriateness. This protocol involves the arrangement of the Palace of the State, Member of the State Executive Council, State agencies and Central agencies. Each one has similarities and differences in the order of priority. Public relations practitioners need to know the arrangement based on the priority of the protocol indeed the application of the protocol practice understand this in order to manage the order of priority protocols because it has been the practice for a long time especially in formal occasions and informal involving dignitaries. Professional such as public relations practitioners in Malaysia regularly involved in the management of events and official functions of the organization.

3.0 Order of Precedence

This paper focuses in protocol of Order of Precedence in this country. Order of Precedence is based on the sequence of seniority for officers in the government and non-governmental organization. This has been viewed as the essentiality of protocol and it is not completed without this crucial element since hundred of ages ago. According to Mokhtar and Ahmad Fawzi (2003), theirs had been some sources to trace in the study of protocol, such as Sejarah Melayu, Tuhfat al-Nafis and Misa Melayu. In the year of 1779, there is a manuscript give detail description about the Malay ritual and ceremonial custom, with this, it has give raise
to the awareness of the importance of the protocol especially in the matter of dealing with the ruler and the people who is ruled and govern by the order of privilege. It had been proof showing that protocol was being implemented since Malay ruling of Malacca. It was clearly shown the importance of protocol in sitting position in balairung and it is arranged according to the seniority and the prestigious of the official. Further more, it is recorded in Sejarah Melayu (1975) about this mentioned issue:

In Malay society, when meeting with the king, the bendahara and penghulu bendahari and temenngung and all the ministers and the very important person and the sida-sida will be seated in kelek-kelek balai facing the king. All the princes will be sitting in left and right hand side of the kelek-kelek balai, as for the younger sida-sida will be sitting in between bentara, as the junior hulubalang are to stand in the balai with the sword, the left hand side of the chief bentara are the disentrances of the ministers who will be the bendahara, penghulu bendahari and temenngung, as for the right hands side of the chief bentera will be the descentances of the hulubalang who will be the laksamana from Seri Bijaya Diraja, or whoever with the title of Sang Guna who will be the future laksamana and whoever with the title of Tun Pikrama will be the future bendahara. (Sejarah Melayu 1975:pg.75)

As our country consists of 13 states and a Federal Territory, so Abdullah (2002) states that the practice of the protocol too gives consideration to the priority of the Federal Territory before the states, the ministration before the state council and the other organization. It seems complex and challenging to those who is take charge of the practice of the protocol.

The arrangement based on the priority of the protocol indeed eases the application of the protocol practice. Hence, each department or agency will design their own protocol system to work ways out accordingly in the protocol practice. All nations in the world will have their own protocol, including ASEAN countries. Those who fail to practice will affect their image and the dignity. It had been recorded in the history that the failure of the appropriateness in protocol had led to the threatening relationship between the countries or governments (Mokhtar 1993). In addition, the inappropriateness of protocol practice can lead to the dissatisfaction of the guest towards the host when the positioning of seating can even bring misconception to the both parties (Mokhtar and Ahmad Fawzi 2003).
4.0 Federal Order of Precedence

Federal Order of Precedence is the list to arrange the positioning based on the seniority in the society. It is to be followed by all government function since 1953 (Mokhtar and Ahmad Fawzi 2003). What has been practiced until recently was the Federal Order of Precedence dated 22 January 1998 in Warta Kerajaan Malaysia, P.U. (B) 29. There has been some alteration in it since 1953 and it had undergone 19 changes. The first was the Table of Precedence Federation of Malaya that was firstly introduced on the 1st of January, 1953 which consists of 43 categories. It was the High Commissioner-General follows by the High Commissioner of British before the Malay Ruler. After the independence of our country on 31 August 1957, the priority has given to the His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong, follow by the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong and The Rulers of the Malay States. There are 20 times of changes and alterations have been done to suit the appropriateness of the practice of the protocol and currently with 70 categories.

It is important to know that the Federal Order of Precedence is improvised by a committee of Federal Order of Precedence that is responsible for the suitable changes. The usage of the Federal Order of Precedence is to arrange the seating position of a formal function, the itinerary of the function, the placing of the 13 states’ flags, the arrival and departure of the guest of honor and the delivery of speech by the speaker. The protocol person plays an important role in making a function successful by fulfilling all the appropriateness.

5.0 Status in Federal Order of Precedence

The determination of status in Federal Order of Precedence is based on his position as an officer of the government or the public (Mokhtar 1993; Mokhtar and Ahmad Fawzi 2003). As a government officer, the status is marked by the type of positions, the grade of the positions, the salary scheme and the title awarded, as for the public is depend on the title that awarded to them.

1. Public Service, Army and Police Officer

   a. The positions
It is important to consider the post one occupied when arranging the sitting position. These are the important posts: Chief of Defense Forces, Inspector-General of Police, Governor of Bank Negara, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Keeper of the Rulers’ Seal and Dato’ Paduka Maharaja Lela.

b. The status
The status referred to the seniority of the post in public service including Staff Officers of Grade I, II, III, Super scale A, B and C. There are posts which are exceptional from this such as judges of the High Courts who are equivalent to Staff Officers of Grade III.

c. The salary scheme
The grade of the salary reflects the status. The higher the salary the higher the status should be. However, note that not all the categories of post share the same salary scale, for instance, the civil servant, the army and the police.

d. Title of award
A person with the title of award like “Tun”, “Tan Sri” and “Dato’” should be given the honor as the title carried. The recipients of “Tun” will be ranked higher, and followed by “Tan Sri” and “Dato’”.

e. Social status in the society
A consideration is given to the social status of a person like someone influential as ulama in our society. However, Mokhtar (1993) said that the value is subjective as it is immeasurable by scientific calculation, rationality and standard yardstick. Furthermore, recognition should not only base on the salary scale, the contribution to the society is as much valuable, therefore, and the recognition may be ever changeable so long as it does abide the appropriateness of the protocol.

2. Non-civil servant or the public

a. Social status
A community leader, a religion leader or even an influential person should be given the appropriate in positioning.
b. Title of award
Privilege is given to the state of honour of the title awarded. However, the title of the state should follow the Federal protocol.

According to the information from Prime Minister Department, the Federal Order of Precedence gives consideration to:

1. Constitution/Law and order
Constitution/Law has confirmed some privileges in protocol practice, the same will be applied to the agreement and laws agreed by government in the international affair and it are confined to its agreement.

2. The order from His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong/ Prime Minister
The order from His majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong/ Prime Minister are unquestionable. The positioning is subjective as its status is immeasurable by scientific calculation, rationality and standard. Furthermore, recognition should not only base on the salary scale, the contribution to the society is as much valuable, therefore, and the recognition may be ever changeable so long as it does abide the appropriateness of the protocol (Source: Prime Minister Department).

List of Federal Order of Precedence
As showed in Table 1 is the Malaysia Federal Order of Precedence that consists of 70 categories (Mokhtar and Mohd Fawzi 2003; www.malaysianmonarchy.org.my). This order of protocol position is to be practiced in all official Federal function.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Federal Order of Precedence published by the government dated 22nd January 1998</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Their Royal Highnesses, the Rules and Regents (Rules and Regents take precedence among themselves according to the date they ascend the Throne)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Their Excellencies, Governors (Yang Di-Pertua-Yang Di-Pertua Negeri) (Governors take precedence among themselves according to the date they ascend the Throne)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Former Raja Permaisuri Agong who receives a royal pension from the Federal Government
6. The Most Honorable Prime Minister
7. The Most Honorable Deputy Prime Minister
   **Honorary-7A.** Heirs to the State Thrones (D.Y.T.M. The Crown Prince/Raja Muda)
8. Recipients of the Darjah Utama Seri Mahkota Negera (D.M.N.)
9. Recipients of the 1st Class Order of Pangkuan Negara (S.M.N.)—“Tun”
10. Recipients of the 1st Class Order of Setia Mahkota (S.S.M.)—“Tun”
    **Honorary-10A.** The four Dato’-Dato’ Undang and the Tengku Besar Tampin, Negeri Sembilan
11. The Chief Justice
12. The Speaker of the Senate
13. The Speaker of the House of Representatives
14. Former Prime Minister
15. Former Deputy Prime Minister
16. Members of the Cabinet
   (Members of the Cabinet take precedence among themselves according to the date of appointment)
17. The Chief Secretary/Secretary to the Cabinet
   **Honorary -17A.** The Most Honourable Menteri Besar and Chief Minister (Menteri Besar and Chief Minister take precedence among themselves according to the precedence of their Rules and Governors)
18. The Attorney-General
19. The Chief of Defense Forces
20. The Inspector-General Police
21. Director-General, Department of the Public Services
22. Deputy Ministers
23. Deputy President of the Senate and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
24. High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Minister Envoys, Acting High Commissioners and Charge d’Affaires (Order of Precedence is according to the date they present their Letters of Credence to His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong)
25. President, Court of Appeal
26. Chief Judge, Malaya
27. Chief Judge, Sabah and Sarawak
28. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament
29. Judges of the Federal Courts
30. Appeal Judges
31. Parliamentary Secretaries
   (Parliament Secretaries take precedence among themselves according to the precedence
   of their Ministers)
32. Former Chief Secretary
33. Staff Officers of Grade I, II and III
34. Former Attorney-General, Former Chief of Defense Forces and Former Inspector-
   General Police
35. Chairman of Commissions instituted under the Constitution
36. Judges of the High Courts
37. Chairman of Public Service Tribunal
38. Commissioner of Judicial
39. The Auditor-General
40. The Governor, Bank Negara
41. Lord Mayor, Kuala Lumpur
42. The Chairman, Government Official Function Committee
43. The Mufti, Federal Territory
44. The Keeper of the Ruler’s Seal
45. The Grand Chamberlain (Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela)
46. Recipients of the 2nd Class Order of Pangkuan Negara (P.M.N.) – “Tan Sri”
47. Recipients of the 2nd Class Order of Setia Mahkota (P.S.M.) – “Tan Sri”
48. Royal Professors
49. Recipients of the 1st Class Order of Jasa Negara (P.J.N.) – ‘Datuk’
50. Recipients of the 1st Class Order of Setia Diraja (P.S.D.) – ‘Datuk’
   **Honorary-50A.** The Honorable Deputy Menteri Besar/Deputy Chief Minister
   **Honorary-50B.** Speakers of the State Legislative Councils
51. Members of the Senate
52. Members of the House of Representatives
53. Officers of Super scale A and Officers of Defense Forces and Police of the same
   status
54. Chief of Army
55. Chief of Navy
56. Chief of Air Force
57. Deputy Inspector-General Police
58. Secretary-Generals of Ministries
59. Vice-Chancellor of Public Universities
   **Honorary-59A.** Members of the State Executive Councils and Minister of the states of Sabah and Sarawak
60. Officers of Super scale B and Officers of Defense Forces and Police of the same status
61. Chairman of Statutory Bodies, Director-General of Statutory Bodies of the same ranks as Officers of Super scale B
   **Honorary-61A.** Recipients of National Fellow Award
62. Local Representatives of the United Nation
63. Officers of Super Scale C, Officers of Defense Forces and Police, and Chief/Head of Statutory Bodies of the same status
   **Honorary-63A.** Members of the State Legislative Councils
64. Recipients of the 3rd Class Order of Pangkuan Negara (J.M.N.)
65. Recipients of the 3rd Class Order of Setia Mahkota (J.S.M.)
66. Recipients of the 2nd Class Order of Setia DiRaja (J.S.D.)
67. Officers of Grades 53/54 (Grades I), Officers of Defense Forces and Police, and Chief/Head of Statutory Bodies of the same status
68. Political Secretaries
   Political Secretaries take precedence among themselves according to the precedence of their Ministers
69. Officers of Grades 48/51/52 (Grades II) and Officers of Defense Forces and Police of the same status
70. Council-Generals of countries not having diplomatic representation in Malaysia

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**States Order of Precedence**

Every state in our country has own their protocol positioning. It is led by His Royal Highness (D.Y.M.M.) Sultan or Yang Di-Pertuan Negeri or Raja, as for state with Yang Dipertua Negeri, His Majesty will lead. States like Kedah, Pahang, Kelantan, Johor, Perak, Perlis, Terengganu dan Selangor are led by D.Y.M.M. Sultan, D.Y.M.M.Yang Di-Pertuan Negeri lead Negeri Sembilan, and D.Y.M.M. Raja will lead Perlis, as Governors will lead Sarawak, Penang, Sabah and Melaka. Kedah State has the most categories with 96 order of precedence and Johor with 16 categories (Mokhtar and Ahmad Fauzi 2003).
6.0 Order of Precedence of Federal Cabinet

Federal Cabinet is lead by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and other ministers who are elected in the general election. They are proposed by the Prime Minister and accepted by His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Minor change can happen and is done by the Prime Minister as to promote the efficiency of the cabinet. At present, the Federal Cabinet is the one formed in 2012. The positioning is based on the date of appointment as well as the post one holds in his political party. Table 2 shows the 2012 Order of Precedence of Federal Cabinet lead by The Most Honourable Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak (www.pmo.gov.my).

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<th>Table 2: The Order of Precedence of Federal Cabinet in 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development: The Most Honourable Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education: The Most Honourable Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muhyiddin bin Mohd Yassin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department: The Honorable Senator Datuk Seri Palanivel a/l K. Govindasamy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water: The Honorable Dato’ Sri Peter Chin Fah Kui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department: The Honorable Senator Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Koon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities: The Honorable Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department: The Honorable Dato’ Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Internal Security and Home Affair: The Honorable Dato’ Seri Hishamuddin bin Tun Hussein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Information, Communication, Arts and Culture: The Honorable Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais bin Yatim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department: The Honorable Senator Tan Sri Nor Mohamed bin Yakcob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Rural and Regional Development: The Honorable Dato’ Seri Haji Mohd. Shafie bin Haji Apdal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minister of Higher Education: *The Honorable Dato’ Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin*
Minister of International Trade and Industry: *The Honorable Dato’ Sri Mustapa bin Mohamed*
Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation: *The Honorable Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili*
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment: *The Honorable Dato’ Sri Douglas Uggah Embas*
Minister of Tourism: *The Honorable Dato’ Sri Dr Ng Yen Yen*
Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry: *The Honorable Datuk Seri Haji Noh bin Omar*
Minister of Defense: *The Honorable Dato’ Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi*
Minister of Works: *The Honorable Dato’ Seri Shaziman bin Abu Mansor*
Minister of Health: *The Honorable Dato’ Sri Liow Tiong Lai*
Minister of Youth and Sports: *The Honorable Dato’ Sri Ahmad Shabery bin Cheek*
Minister of Human Resources: *The Honorable Datuk Seri S. Sabri bin Yaakob*
Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs: *The Honorable Dato’ Sri Ismail Hanadzlah*
Second Minister of Finance: *The Honorable Dato’ Seri Ahmad Husni Mohmad Hanadzlah*
Minister of Transport: *The Honorable Dato’ Seri Kong Cho Ha*
Minister of Foreign Affairs: *The Honorable Dato’ Sri Anifah Aman*
Minister of Federal Territories and Urban: Wellbeing *The Honorable Senator Dato’ Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin*
Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department: *The Honorable Senator Mejar Jeneral (B) Dato’ Seri Jamil Khir Baharom*
Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department: *The Honorable Senator Dato’ Sri Idris Jala*
Minister of Housing and Local Government: *The Honorable Dato’ Seri Chor Chee Heung*
7.0 Discussion

Based on the analysis, protocol practice involved in all function at all level, it is indeed a challenge to the person who need to organized functions in appropriate manner. Hence, they are advised to follow the rules and orders set by the Federal, states as well as any organization. The discussion that follow shows examples of situation to enhance the understanding of protocol practice in our country.

If the function is organized by the Federal Government, Federal Order of Precedence is the best choice to be selected. For example, a Federal level of function is to be held in Putrajaya. The guest of honor to attends are His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong, His Royal Highness Sultan of Pahang, Her Royal Highness Sultanah of Pahang, The Most Honorable Prime Minister and wife’s. Therefore, His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong is placed at the most honor position follow by Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong, His Royal Highness Sultan of Pahang, Her Royal Highness Sultanah of Pahang, The Most Honorable Prime Minister and wife’s.

The second example shows a function at Federal level is going to be held in a state. It is an opening ceremony of a new school in Johor by The Most Honorable Prime Minister. Other guests of honor are The Most Honorable Menteri Besar of Johor and The Honorable Education Minister. Hence, The Most Honorable Prime Minister is placed in the most honor position follow by Minister of Education and Menteri Besar of Johor.

In the situation whereby arrangement of the Malaysian Cabinet Line-up is involved Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, The Honorable Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok was listed higher compared to the Minister of Internal Security and Home Affairs, The Honorable Dato’ Seri Hishamuddin bin Tun Hussein. This arrangement is based on the position of Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok as the Presiden of The United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO), as a Barisan Nasional component party that rules Malaysia while, Dato’ Seri Hishamuddin bin Tun Hussein is the Vice-President of The United Malay National Organization (UMNO). The arrangement for other Malaysian Cabinet Line-up is based on the date of appointment as the minister of cabinet and his/her role in the coalition party.

The Federal Order of Precedence shows that the government is giving the protocol honor to the representative from foreign country including ASEAN countries who is performing their duty in our country likewise the High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Minister Envoys, Acting High Commissioners, Charge d’Affairs (Table 1 Federal Order of
Precedence, no. 24), and Council-Generals of countries not having diplomatic representation in Malaysia (Table 1 Federal Order of Precedence, no. 70). The Order of Precedence is according to the date they present their Letters of Credence to His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The arrangement of the state of Kedah shows an interesting in positioning between The Most Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and The Most Honorable Menteri Besar of Kedah Darul Aman. For example, His Royal Highness Sultan of Kedah will be officiates a state level function in Alor Setar, Kedah. The arrangement shows that The Most Honorable Menteri Besar of Kedah Darul Aman has a higher position in the arrangement as compare to Deputy Prime Minister.

In a situation when The Most Honorable Chief Minister of Sabah is having an official visit to Negeri Sembilan. In the protocol practice, The Most Honorable Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan should welcome the arrival of Chief Minister of Sabah. In the position, as the Chief Minister of Sabah was the honorable guest to Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan, so Chief Minister of Sabah should be placed in the most honor position compare to the host, Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan and the verse-versa.

8.0 Conclusion

Protocol is being practiced in most of the function for most of the party even though the importance of it seemingly less noticed. The protocol practice should be done by someone who is knowledgeable and expert in handling all the doubts in protocol practice. The positioning has it crucial role in motivating the practice of the protocol. The basic principle to fix the positioning is that Federal Order of Precedence should be the guideline to follow included the sultan, raja, ministers, government officers and the public. It is essentially important for a person who involve in protocol to aware of the different positioning in our country whereby the variety of Order of Precedence covering the various level of Federal, States, Cabinet and an organization which are involved directly as well as indirectly. Professional public relations practitioners in Malaysia regularly involved in the management of events and official functions of the organization and need to know the arrangement based on the priority of the protocol.
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