

MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION LONDON 14 January 2026

The National Chairman John Measham and Secretary Gillian Bowtell were invited to the Malaysian High Commission in London to meet the new Malaysian Defence Adviser, Brig. Gen. Dato' Shahir Hafizul Abd Rahman (right) also to discuss the current situation of PJM applications along with our brothers, the Ex-British Gurkha Association Chairman, Rukum Bahadur Rana and Nathu Singh Thapa.

Discussions focused on the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) and planning for the PJM Medal Conferment Ceremony of UK veterans. Below are the opening remarks by the Defence Adviser.



PJM discussions on the 14 January 2026 at the MHC

L to R. Rukum Bahadur Rana, Nathu Singh Thapa,

DA Brig. Gen. Dato' Shahir Hafizul Abd Rahman,

John Measham, Gillian Bowtell & ADA Maj. Ahmad Saifuddin Noordin.

THE DEFENCE ADVISERS OPENING REMARKS

Dear representatives of the National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association and the Ex British Gurkha-Association. Good morning and thank you for taking the time to meet me today. It is truly an honour to receive your courtesy call, and I warmly welcome you all. I am particularly grateful for this opportunity to engage with an association whose members represent courage sacrifice, and an important chapter in our shared history.

As this my first meeting with the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association and the Ex-British Gurkha Association since assuming my appointment as Defence Adviser, I would like to express my deepest respect and appreciation to you and all of the respective members. Your services during the Malaya and the Indonesia- Malaysia confrontation was pivotal in safeguarding the sovereignty, stability, and future of our nation.

The peace and security that Malaysia enjoys today did not come without a cost. It was built upon the resilience, discipline, and selfless commitment of those that stood firm during times of uncertainty and conflict. Many of you that served far from home, under difficult conditions, mud, wet, leeches and mosquitoes, often with limited recognition at the time. History records your actions, but more importantly, the nation remembers your sacrifices.

Thus, today's meeting will include discussions on matters relating to the Pingat Jasa Malaysia. the medal that represents the Nation's enduring gratitude and acknowledgement of service rendered in defence of Malaya during critical periods of our history. while no award can fully repay the sacrifices made, recognition remains an important affirmation that your service mattered – and continues to matter.

In my current role here in the United Kingdom, I see firsthand the respect held for veterans and the importance placed on remembrance and recognition. and as the military representative in the United Kingdom, i will take very seriously any engagement involving our veterans, particularly those who served during the Malayan emergency and confrontation. Insya Allah, I will do my utmost, within my remit, to support constructive dialogue and appropriate channels of engagement.

Once again, I thank the national Malaya Borneo veteran association and the Ex British Gurkha association for spending your time here today and for your continued dedication. I look forward to our discussion and to a meaningful exchange of views.

Thank you.