Brief background about main dignitaries or “pembesar” and its origin in Perak

- Perak Sultanate is considered the closest to the Malacca Sultanate system. Not only the dynasty of its Sultan but also the dignitaries system (sistem pembesar).
- Perak dignitaries system also followed Malacca system whereby the state dignitaries were arranged based on the following:
  1) Orang Besar Empat
  2) Orang Besar Lapan
  3) Orang Besar Enam Belas
  4) Orang Besar Tiga Puluh Dua

- Historically, the ruling class in Perak can be divided into two i.e. the royals and the nobilities. It is the Sultan’s prerogative and he has the ultimate power to appoint (including to replace) dignitaries. Thus, the holding of dignitaries’ position is not automated i.e. to be passed to the next of kin although this is the case.

A) Orang Besar Empat is comprised of:
   1) Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja
      - First person to hold this position was Tun Mahmud son of Tun Isap Berakah.
      - The position was left vacant when Tun Mahmud was required to go back to Johor.
      - Sultan Mudzaffar Shah I (1528-1549) announced that whoever managed to kill Tun Saban, that person will be appointed as Bendahara.
      - Megat Terawis killed Tun Saban and thus appointed as Bendahara Paduka Raja and his family inherit the position e.g. Megat Shuib, Megat Manja, Megat Iskandar, Megat Pendia, Megat Abu Kasim, Megat Said & Megat Lambat Makan.
      - During the reign of Sultan Iskandar Zulkarnain (1554-1564), the Bendahara, Temenggung & Orang Kaya Menteri resigned from their post apparently as they could not fulfilled the wish of Sultan Iskandar to build a castle at the Cempaka Sari (maybe the old name of Perak….).
      - From that point, Sultan Iskandar appointed Raja Alauddin (Raja Kecil Tengah) to resume the role of Bendahara with the title Raja Bendahara.
      - Raja Bendahara’s territories of coverage were Sungai Raya, Teja & Bidor.
      - However, the title Raja Bendahara was returned back as the post of Orang Besar Empat during the reign of Sultan Yusuf Izzudin (1948-1963).
      - The last Raja Bendahara was Raja Abdul Rashid ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Idris.
      - Raja Abdul Rashid was replaced by Datuk C.M Yusuf bin Abdul Rahman upon Tuanku’s death in 1958.
      - Tan Sri Datuk Osman Talib succeeded Datuk C.M Yusuf and Tun Haji Syed Zahiruddin bin Syed Hassan is the third and present Orang Kaya Bendahara since 10 September 1984.
   - The role of Orang Kaya Bendahara mainly heading the appointment of the new Sultan, management of funeral of a Sultan, announcement of the new Sultan as well as the post title for the late Sultan.
   - The appointment of Orang Kaya Bendahara is purely based on Sultan’s prerogative and the only post without “Toh Muda” or rather successor.
2) **Orang Kaya Besar Maharaja Diraja (OKBMD)**
- The post apparently was created in the 17th century.
- The role OKBMD practically the same as the role of Orang Besar Empat Melaka i.e. Penghulu Bendahari which held by Seri Nara Diraja.
- In other words, OKBMD was the Sultan’s treasurer, secretary and chamberlain (during the glorious day of Perak Sultanate).
- In 1876, his responsibility extended to include tax administrations.
- Assistant of OKBMD is called Seri Amar Perdana Diwangsa (at one time held by Tun Saban’s lineage), ranked Orang Kaya Besar Enam Belas.
- Mostly the title is held by Megat’s family e.g. Megat Lambat Makan & Megat Jaafar bin Megat Yunus
- The post of OKBMD currently held by Dato’ Abd. Rahman bin Haji Zainuddin since 1 February 2003.

3) **Orang Kaya Temenggung Paduka Raja (OKTPR)**
- Some sources said that this title holder originally held by Tun Saban’s lineage.
- A Dutch document in 1680 did mention about the existence of OKTPR at that time Orang Kaya Temenggung Seri Maharaja Lela.
- Same like the Malacca Sultanate system, the role of OKTPR is to ensure peaceful of the state i.e. minister of police and he looked after Sultan’s forts, tried and executed criminals.
- He is assisted by Seri Lela Paduka (ranked Orang Kaya Besar Enam Belas).
- During the Dutch reign, Megat Mutabar (from Bendahara lineage) was appointed as Temenggung before taken over by Tan Bantan.
- When Bugis became powerful in Perak, the title of OKTPR was inherited to the Tuk Haji Besar Daing Selili’s lineage.
- Since the British admission to Perak, the status and power of OKTPR as “Keris Pandak Sultan” was ceased.
- Now, the role of OKTPR is more towards Royal functions besides having power to appoint a new Sultan.
- The present OKTPR is Dato’ Seri Wan Mohd. Fathir @ Wan Fadzir bin Wan Hussain appointed on 1 January 1998.
- Note: Wan Abdul Shukor, one of the Sembang Kuala editors is from this lineage.

4) **Orang Kaya Menteri Paduka Tuan (OKMPT)**
- Sources said that this post is based on the lineage of Syed Sharif which also a lineage from Bendahara of Malacca.
- The first name of OKMPT that could be traced was in the 1740s, when Sultan Muzaffar Shah III appointed Fakeh Yusof as “Menteri”.
- However, the lineage was ceased after the resignation of Menteri together with Bendahara & Temenggung during the reign of Sultan Iskandar Zulkarnain (as mentioned earlier).
- As a result, Sultan Iskandar then appointed someone from Arab origin descendent of Ahmad Esa al-Majahir i.e. Arab Hadramaut.
- From this clan then existed the now famous clan called Al-Sagoff, Al-Idrus, Al-Qadri and Al-Habshi.
- According to R.O. Windstedt, Sultan Muda Alaudin Shah (1771-1786) and Sultan Yusof Sharifuddin (1877-1887) had these clans blood.
However in 1862, Sultan Jaafar had appointed Ngah Ibrahim to this post (son of Paduka Setia- Orang Besar Enam Belas, assistance to Panglima Bukit Gantang)

Traditionally, OKMPT act as court’s adviser who settled disputes between princes and chiefs and gave opinions on law and customs.

The current holder to this title is Dato‘ Dr. Haji Wan Mohd Isa bin Dato‘ Seri Haji Wan Ahmad Isa Shukeri (since 1 May 2003).

B) As at 1874, Orang Besar Lapan is comprised of:
1) Orang Kaya Kaya Maharaja Lela Tenjana Putra (Datuk Maharaja Lela)
2) Orang Kaya Kaya Laksmana Raja Mahkota (Datuk Laksmana)
3) Orang Kaya Kaya Seri Andika Raja Syahbandar (Serin Andika raja)
4) Orang Kaya Kaya Syahbandar Paduka Indera
5) Orang Kaya Kaya Panglima Kinta Seri Amar Diraja(Panglima Kinta)
6) Orang Kaya Kaya Panglima Bukit Gantang Seri Amar Diraja (Panglima Bukit Gantang)
7) Orang Kaya Kaya Seri Agar Diraja (Dato‘ Sagor)
8) Orang Kaya Kaya Imam Paduka Tuan

* Title of Datuk Maharaja Lela & Dato‘ Sagor were defunct after the killings of J.W.W. Birch and were replaced with Orang Kaya Kaya Setia Bijaya and Orang Kaya-Kaya Mahakurnia Indera Diraja. During the reign of Sultan Yusuf Izzudin, the title of Dato‘ Sagor was reinstated back and replacing the Orang Kaya-Kaya Mahakurnia Indera Diraja with the view that OKK titles to be hold by commoners and not from the royal household.

1) Orang Kaya Kaya Maharaja Lela Tenjana Putra (Datuk Maharaja Lela)
   - Was the most senior among the Orang Besar Lapan.
   - His territories were Pasir Salak, Sungai Dedap & Sungai Kerang.
   - Traditionally, Datuk Maharaja Lela’s role was to execute punishments as per Sultan’s instructions or mandates.
   - Nicknamed as “Maharaja Lela Pancung Tak Bertanya” as he was not subjected under state law (at that time).
   - Datuk Maharaja Lela was assisted by Maharaja Anakanda (successor) and Maharaja Seri Rama.
   - The title Maharaja Anakanda also defunct after the killings of J.W.W Birch while Maharaja Seri Rama been transferred as the assistance of Orang Kaya Kaya Setia Bijaya Diraja (replacement for Dato‘ Sagor) to take charge of Kampung Gajah.
   - Among the holders of this title were Tuk Pati, Tuk Pekah, Tuk Teraweh, Nakhoda Zainal bin Maharaja Lela Jalil Pekak, and Tuk Maulud.
   - The last Datuk Maharaja Lela was Pandak Lam bin Maharaja Lela Maulud.
   - With the death of Pandak Lam, the state government had created a new post called Orang Kaya-Kaya Mahakurnia Indera Diraja and Tuan Alang Ahmad bin Mohammad Yunus (at that time was Orang Kaya Imam Paduka- orang besar enam belas) was appointed as the first holder.
   - In 1929, the post was held by Raja Dato‘ Seri Shahriman bin Raja Abdul Hamid with Raja Razman (Ku Nick) as Toh Muda.
2) Orang Kaya Kaya Laksmana Raja Mahkota (OKKLRM)
   - Traditionally, also known as “Raja di Laut” and hailed from Tuk Kuala Bidor lineage (the first to hold the position).
   - In general, OKKLRM was in charge of the sea coast of the state.
   - Based on M.A. Fawzi Basri, up to 1952 there were 14 people held this post.
   - The current holder is Dato' Mohd. Amin Shukeri bin Dato' Ali Akbar (since 22 October 1996).
   - In the 1870's, OKKLRM was said to be in-charge of Durian Sebatang district and also the chief of Hilir Perak territory and the mining at Batang Padang.

3) Orang Kaya Kaya Seri Andika Raja Syahbandar Muda (OKKSARSM)
   - Known as Seri Andika Raja or Andika Raja in short and ruled the upper waters of the Perak river.
   - From the lineage of Tun Kelalang bin Tun Saban.
   - At this present time, Seri Andika Raja is in charge of Hulu Perak.
   - Present holder is Dato' Seri Haji Meor Ahmad Rashidi bin Haji Meor Burhanuddin (since 1 December 1985).

4) Orang Kaya Kaya Syahbandar Paduka Indera (OKKSPI)
   - Syahbandar in short, traditionally the role was like the Custom, Immigration as well as trade enforcement.

5) Orang Kaya Kaya Panglima Kinta Seri Amar Bangsa Diraja (DPK)
   - Panglima Kinta is considered as the “left wing” of the government as he is responsible on the affair of the east of the state (Laksmana on the south, Seri Andika on the north, and Panglima Bukit Gantang on the west).
   - There were few versions on the origin of DPK but based on the manuscript of the palace, Tuk Tambak bin Maharaja Nara Wangsa Nyior Manis was the first DPK.
   - The current holder Dato' Seri Dr. Abdullah Fadzil bin Che Wan (since 27 September 1999) is the 17th DPK.
   - Traditionally, DPK ruled over the valley of Kinta river, and received a 10 percent royalty on all tin found in the district besides fines and fees.
   - Annually, DPK will present the Sultan with 100 “bahara” or ballast of tin as part of “ufti”. Normally, in return DPK will receive goods worth $100 to be divided among the Kinta’s people.

6) Orang Kaya Kaya Panglima Bukit Gantang Seri Amar Diraja (DPBG)
   - The position was founded from the lineage of Tun Belunak (son of Tun Saban) in Trong.
   - Another sources mentioned that the earliest DPBG recorded was Alang Alaidin bin Tuk Paduka Setia Pandak Jamaluddin bin Tuk Nara Kembal Batu bin Tuk Kasuh bin Nyak Bisai (Aceh origin).
   - In 1871, the power of DPBG deteriorated resulted from the heightened power of the “Menteri Larut”.
When DPBG died at that time, the post was left vacant although there was a successor.
The position was re-established when Haji Mahmud bin Mohd Taib was appointed.
After the Japanese occupancy, the Menteri Besar of Perak at that time i.e. Haji Abdul Wahab bin Tok Muda Abdul Aziz was appointed to the post. He was the grandson of the Haji Mahmud bin Mohd Taib.
Currently, the post is held by Dato’ Seri Yeop Junior bin Haji Yeop Adlan since 18 February 1993.

7) Orang Kaya Kaya Seri Agar Diraja (OKKSAD)
- Also known as Dato’ Sagor.
- Traditionally, the role of Dato’ Sagor was to in charge of the affair or needs of Raja Perempuan and palace.
- No details available on the origin of Dato’ Sagor but some said it was from Acheh (Tuk Bangsawan Seri Tuk Paduka Raja).
- The last Dato’ Sagor was Pandak Endut and the post was replaced by OKK Setia Bijaya Diraja (Tok Setia). The forerunner of Tok Setia was Jeragan Abdul Shukor, one of the Sembang Kuala editors is from his lineage. The present holder of Tok Setia is Dato’ Seri Haji Mohd. Ghazali bin Haji Abd. Rahman (since 20 July 1989).
- Under the Perak Constitution (Part 2) 1953, the title of Dato’ Sagor to be reinstated back upon the demise of the holder of Orang Kaya-Kaya Mahakurnia Indera Diraja.
- Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib (great-great grandson of Pandak endut) was appointed as Dato’ Sagor on 1 October 1987 upon the demise of Raja Dato’ Seri Shahriman (the last Orang Kaya-Kaya Mahakurnia Indera Diraja).

8) Orang Kaya Kaya Imam Paduka Tuan (OKKIPT)
- Originally, the role of Imam Paduka Tuan was to take charge of religious affairs of the state.
- The post is not in hereditary but depending on Sultan’s prerogative.
- Current holder is Dato’ Seri Haji Abd. Malik bin Haji Noordin (since 1 April 1981).

C) The present holder of Orang Besar Enam Belas

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointed Date</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Y.D.H Toh Seri Maharaja Lela</td>
<td>Dato’ Haji Tun Hamzah bin Haji Tun Abd. Rafar</td>
<td>1.3.1987</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Maharaja Dewa</td>
<td>Dato’ Haji Zaharin bin Pandak Chulan</td>
<td>1.1.1992</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Y.D.H Toh Maharaja Indera</td>
<td>Dato’ Seri Yang Rashidi bin Ma’asom</td>
<td>1.4.1994</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Y.D.H Toh Shahbandar Ulu</td>
<td>Y.B. Haji Mohd Tarmizi bin Haji Idris</td>
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6  Y.D.H Toh Tan Dewa Paduka  Haji Zainon Kamar bin Haji Zainal Abidin  1.6.1991
8  Y.D.H Toh Sedewa Raja  Abdul Talib bin Abdul Fahmi  1.12.1989
11 Y.D.H Toh Indera Jaya  Dato’ Haji Shaari bin Haji Abd Wahab  1.12.1959
12 Y.D.H. Toh Seri Bijaya  Wan Ashaari bin Wan Soo  1.6.2005
13 Y.D.H Toh Seri Lela Paduka  Haji Abd. Rashid bin Uda Mohamed  10.3.1998
14 Y.D.H Toh Amar Seri DiRaja  Dato’ Ayop bin Hashim  1.3.1974
16 Y.D.H Toh Seri Wangsa  Abdul Rahim bin Mohamed,  1.4.2000

D) The present holder of Orang Besar Tiga Puluh Dua

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointed Date</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Y.D.H Toh Purba DiRaja</td>
<td>Johan bin Lahamat</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Amar Pahlawan</td>
<td>Abd. Rahim bin Ismail</td>
<td>1.12.1985</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Bahtera DiRaja</td>
<td>Haji Sazali bin Abd. Hamid</td>
<td>1.12.1985</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Suri Wati</td>
<td>Salasiah binti Din</td>
<td>1.12.1985</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Bahagia Negara</td>
<td>Kamarul Zaini bin Abd. Ghani</td>
<td>1.4.1986</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Y.D.H Toh Kohor Alam</td>
<td>Brigedier Jeneral (B).Dato’ Haji Ahmad Fuad bin Haji Harun</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Pendekar Alam</td>
<td>Haji Mohd. Zailani bin Jamali</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Lela Indera</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Mekong</td>
<td>Haji Wan Abdul Samat bin Wan Din</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>Haji Kushashi bin Md. Hashim</td>
<td>10.3.1998</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Tan Dewa Sakti</td>
<td>Haji Ghazali bin Abdul Wahab</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Sakna Menteri</td>
<td>Haji Mohamed Zakaria bin Haji Chu Osman</td>
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<td>Raja Hussain bin Raja Ali</td>
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<td>Haji Isa bin Hudari</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Sakna Bongsu</td>
<td>Osman Khairi bin Abdul Malik</td>
<td>1.2.2001</td>
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<td>Ahmad Hamdan bin Haji Jamaluddin</td>
<td>1.8.2001</td>
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<td>Mohamed Khair Johari bin Haji Osman</td>
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<td>Haji Sulaiman bin Mohd Nawi</td>
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<td>Y.D.H Toh Dewa Mahkota</td>
<td>Haji Mior Idris bin Mior Jaafar</td>
<td>1.4.2003</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>1.3.2004</td>
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<td>Wan Azhar bin Wan Yeop Abdul Shukor</td>
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</table>
E) Orang Besar Jajahan

1. **Orang Besar Kuala Kangsar**  
   Y.A. Bhg. Orang Kaya Temenggung Paduka Raja  
   Dato’ Seri Wan Mohd. Fathir @ Fadzir bin Wan Hussain

2. **Orang Besar Jajahan Larut, Matang dan Selama**  
   Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya Menteri Paduka Tuan  
   Dato’ Dr. Haji Wan Mohd. Isa b. Dato’ Seri Haji Wan Ahmad

3. **Orang Besar Jajahan Hilir Perak**  
   Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya-Kaya Laksamana Raja Mahkota  

4. **Orang Besar Jajahan Hulu Perak**  
   Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya-Kaya Sri Adika Raja Shahbandar Muda,  
   Dato’ Seri Haji Meor Ahmad Rashidi bin Haji Meor Burhanuddin

5. **Orang Besar Jajahan Kinta**  
   Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya-Kaya Panglima Kinta Seri Amar Bangsa DiRaja  
   Dato’ Seri Dr. Abdullah Fadzil bin Che Wan

6. **Orang Besar Jajahan Batang Padang**  
   Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya-Kaya Panglima Bukit Gantang Seri Amar DiRaja  
   Dato’ Seri Yeop Junior bin Haji Yeop Adlan

7. **Orang Besar Jajahan Kerian**  
   Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya-Kaya Shahbandar Paduka Indera  

8. **Orang Besar Jajahan Perak Tengah**  
   Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya-Kaya Setia Bijaya DiRaja  
   Dato’ Seri Haji Mohd. Ghazali bin Haji Abd. Rahman

9. **Orang Besar Jajahan Manjung**  
   Y.D.H. Toh Muda Orang Kaya-Kaya Laksamana Raja Mahkota  
   Mohd. Khairil bin Ahmad Tazalli, P.M.P.

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