



## UTTAMAYANMUNI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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### Our Founder - Tok Raja

#### Tok Raja of Wat Uttamaram Pasir Mas Kelantan

Khron Ratchanaren (known as Tok Raja) was born on Thursday December 1, BE2419 (1876). He was sent to Wat Uttamaram by his parents when he was 12 years old to learn Buddhism and Thai language. He stayed with Archan Lok who was the temple Chief Abbot at that time.

Tok had showed great interest in Buddhism and became a "Dek Jom" under the supervision of Bhikkhu (monks) in the temple. Besides, he also learned crafting and construction. He once told the devotees that even from an early age, he cherished the ambition of joining the monk hood and stay in the temple to learn Buddhism unlike his other kampung (village) boys of the same age who more preferred to stay in their homes in the kampung.

#### Ordination (Upasombot)

Tok joined monk hood (*Bhikkhu*) on Jun 15, 2438 (1895) when he was 21 years old.

The ordination took place at Wat Uttamaram and was ordained by the following monks:

- 1) Phra Upatcha Palad Chai from Wat Mai Suwankhiri
- 2) Phra Khru Ophart Phuthakhun from Wat Chon Prachumthart and
- 3) Phra Athikarn Phut from Wat Bangtakwa Silaloi who became *Kammavacanusavanacarn*

Tok was then given a Buddhist name known as *Punnaksuanno*.  
Positions hold by Tok

2470 BE (1927) - Tok was appointed by Phra Khru Ophatbudthakhoon as Phra Palas Thananukrom

2476 BE (1933) - Tok became *Upatchaya*

2484 BE (1941) - Tok was appointed as Phra Khru Vicarn

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2488 BE (1945) - Tok became the Chief Abbot of Kelantan State known as Phra Vicaranayanmuni

Tok's role in the deployment of Dharma knowledge and spreading of Buddha's teachings

When Tok came back from Songkhla Thailand, he stressed a lot on knowledge skill. He worked very hard in order to expand the knowledge skills to devotees in Kelantan but did not meet his expectation since the Society at that time did not realise the importance of education and as such, was unable to achieve his mission to the fullness. In early year of BE2491 (1948), Thai Buddhism has spread out of the country especially to the neighboring country like Malaya. Malaysia was formerly known as Malaya. In that year, the first Naktham school was established in the Kedah state of Malaya. Tok has waited for the opportunity to open up such school for long time and has establish the same Naktham school in the year BE2492 and the first school was established in Wat Uttamaram Bangsek itself. It was a resounding success in establishing these schools and Tok later handed over the management of the school to Phra Maha Chan Kesaro who possessed "*Parian Tham 6 Prakyok*" as a teacher master. Even though there was a shortage in teaching resources, there was a huge demand from monks all over Kelantan to study at Wat Uttamaram to seek knowledge and learn Naktham where the expenses incurred were manageable. It was not easy to go to Wat Uttamaram at that time where it took hours to reach by walking through the jungle. Such obstacles did not prevent these pupil monks from reaching the Wat and in the same year as it was established, the first Naktham examination was held at Wat Uttamaram in Kelantan.

