

Royal praise for Dr M

THE Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's administration yesterday for having demonstrated to the international community "leadership of a high order".

"The Kuala Lumpur summit conference of the Group of 15 countries in June this year has ushered in a new era in South-South cooperation. Once again, when we hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (Chogm) last year, my Government headed by (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir has demonstrated leadership of a high order," the King said in his ad-

dress to the first meeting of the first session of the eighth Parliament yesterday.

He said Malaysia has attained international prominence through the Government's active participation in, and contributions to, world peace and prosperity. "Malaysia is now better known among the community of nations."

In recognition of Malaysia's role against apartheid, the King noted, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was honoured as the first leader from this region to meet African National Congress leader Dr Nelson Mandela in Zambia following the latter's release from prison.

Dr Mandela's visit to Malaysia last month shows the high regard he has for Malaysia."

He said Malaysia was again honoured with the election to the United Nations' Economic and Social Council for a three-year term. At the UN Security Council, Malaysia has taken a firm stand on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the rights of, and justice for, the Palestinians.

The King added that Malaysia will continue to strengthen ties with Asean members, Islamic countries, countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and member nations of the Commonwealth. —
By Ahirudin Attan