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Investiture-Agong

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 5 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Azlan Shah, today praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his far-sightedness in wanting to make Malaysia a developed nation.

The objective was a practical one and which the nation could achieve, he said.

+If the people are willing to work with greater diligence and discipline and are prepared to face challenges, there is no reason why the 2020 vision cannot be achieved,+ he said at an investiture in conjunction with his 63rd birthday at the Istana Negara here.

Everyone has to give their support and cooperation to the government to ensure that the objective is fulfilled, he said.

However, he said, measures to bring about physical and material development should be complemented with efforts for spiritual development.

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The Yang di-Pertuan Agong called for stepped up efforts to instill positive values to help build a caring society.

+It will be futile for us to be highly developed when our society is not caring,+ he said, adding that abuse of women and children was the result of ignoring the attributes of caring.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong said he was proud that the government had taken steps to mould a caring society to ensure that the nation continued to grow and prosper and allowed the people to lead a meaningful and comfortable life.

He also reiterated the importance of maintaining solidarity and understanding in a cosmopolitan society, and said it was the key to making Malaysia a more peaceful, progressive and prosperous country.

+I hope we will not raise issues or resort to action which can undermine the solidarity and understanding we have built up,+ he said. -- more

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The Yang di-Pertuan Agong said he was also proud that the country continued to play an active role at the international level, and cited Malaysia's proposal for the setting up of the East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) which had been well received.

Furthermore, the opportunity given to Malaysia to host the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting this year reflected the confidence of the international community in the ability of the country to organise international activities.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong advised everyone to strive diligently to step up efficiency and productivity to ensure a good future and achieve the anticipated economic growth this year. -- Bernama

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