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Agong-Anwar

ANWAR:PASS DOWN NATIONAL FORTES TO NEXT GENERATION

KUALA LUMPUR, June 7 (Bernama) -- Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today said for Malaysia to maintain her pace of progress in the era of globalisation, the nation's strong points must not only be preserved but more importantly be passed down to future generations.

"All our fortes of political stability, racial harmony and unity, mental resilience and industriousness must be preserved and passed down to the next generations," he said.

Anwar said this when presenting the pledge of allegiance to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at an investiture in conjunction with his majesty's 75th birthday at Istana Negara here.

He said while being thankful for the advancement achieved so far, the government was mindful that it was more difficult to sustain the achievements than creating them in the first place.

Anwar said national progress would be lop-sided if a segment of the nation was still displaced or marginalised from the mainstream of development.

The government was optimistic that by 2000 it would be able to fully deal with poverty issues as efforts to bring about social justice and democratisation of the economy would be intensified " transcending every poor village and less fortunate men, women and child."

"While stressing on economic and technological progress, the government will also give priority to spiritual, social and political advancement. And we want to achieve progress according to our own specifications," he said.

Anwar said the government aspired to further improve the lot of the people but in doing so it would not neglect religious and cultural virtues which also formed the pillars of national resilience.

The people required such in-built resilience in order to be able to take on the attendant menace of social ills that come with progress, he said.

Anwar called on the private sector not to be stingy in investing in research and development to help the government continue providing incentives to ensure that the sector remained the catalyst for economic growth.

Anwar called on trades unions to help preserve the harmonious industrial relations by tackling problems through negotiations and consensus.

The government, he said, would increase efforts to expand the mercantile community especially among the Bumiputera with the current emphasis on creating more middle-class entrepreneurs including women.

On the international front, Anwar said the various world honours accorded Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad symbolised the international community's recognition of Malaysia's achievements and contributions.

On information technology (IT) development, Anwar said there were initial scepticisms about Malaysia's ability to make the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) a reality.

But Dr Mahathir's grit and determination towards that end had now convinced various parties of the MSC's objectives and potential for success.

"After having convinced top American corporate leaders in the multimedia business of the feasibility of the MSC last year, the MSC has

now been well-received among European multimedia industrialists. Response to Dr Mahathir's roadshow to promote the MSC in London recently was overwhelming," Anwar added.-- BERNAMA

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