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Agong-social

CURB SOCIAL PROBLEMS TO AVOID NATION'S RUIN, SAYS KING

KUALA LUMPUR, June 6 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar tonight reminded the people to pay serious attention to social problems, currently planguing society, before they ruin the country.

"Social problems today like drug abuse, free sex, crime and violence commonly found in Western countries have reared its ugly head in our society," Tuanku Ja'afar said in a royal address over radio and television to his 75th birthday tomorrow.

The rise in immoral activities like co-habitation and family discord resulting in child-neglect were also sources of social problems among children and pupils, Tuanku Ja'afar said.

"Gangsterism in school is a negative phenomenon which could jeopardise efforts to develop dynamic youth," his majesty said.

The King urged the people to have a positive attitude towards achieving success via discipline, hard work, responsibility and the "Malaysia Boleh" ("Malaysia can do it") motto.

He praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for bringing beneficial changes to the country and for making Malaysia respected throughout the world.

"Malaysia's tough and brave stand on many international issues has been hailed by many Latin American, African, West Asian and other Asian countries," the King said.

Citing the drop in poverty rate from 49.3 per cent in 1970 to 9.6 per cent in 1995, the King lauded the government's fair economic policies which enabled the country's wealth to be shared by all regardless of race and religion.

Tuanku Ja'afar looked forward to seeing more middle-class Bumiputera entrepreneurs created and involved in telecommunications, information technology, construction and services.

"I hope the people will not be suspicious and selfish as this could hinder government efforts to further develop the economy," his majesty added.

-- BERNAMA

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