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King: Give full support to Dr M's leadership

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar today urged the people to give their undivided support to the Government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to ensure the country's continued prosperity.

The King said one of the main factors that allowed the country to prosper economically and socially was the existence of an efficient, dynamic and clean Government.

In a speech over radio, TV1 and TV2 tonight in conjunction with his 75th birthday, the King said: "The Government of Dr Mahathir is not only innovative but has also initiated many reforms and changes which have benefited the people and country.

"Under his dynamic leadership, the country has not only been showered with praises but also respected by the international community.

"To the Prime Minister, my congratulations and I hope that he will continue to receive the full support of the people to lead this country and steer it to greater heights."

Tuanku Ja'afar said he was also glad the Government's economic policies were fair and just.

He was also happy that the incidence of poverty had dropped to 9.6 per cent in 1995 from 49.3 in 1970.

"However, I hope efforts to eradicate poverty will be doubled to help reduce the number of hardcore poor.

"There should not be any hardcore poor in the country which is now aggressively entering the new millennium," he said.

The King said the private sector should also help realise this objective.

Tuanku Ja'afar said the people's tolerance for one another and respect for all religions had strengthened unity, adding that this spirit should continue.

"Malaysians, of different beliefs and religions, today continue to live in harmony and unity. They enjoy higher living standards than before Merdeka."

He said unity was the key to the country's stability.

"A stable country will allow the leaders to organise more effective development strategies and policies for the people," he said.

On social problems, the King said these should not accompany economic development and affect the country's well-being.

"Today, social problems like drug abuse, bohsia, crime and violence, which are normally associated with the West, have begun to show their effects on us.

"The increase in the number of couples living together without getting married and the disintegration of the family unit, will cause the children to suffer.

"This will eventually lead to other social problems among schoolchildren like gangsterism which can disrupt efforts to produce dynamic youths," he said.

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