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King, Dr M congratulate Habibie

Sarban Singh

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today congratulated B.J. Habibie on his appointment as the new Indonesian President following the resignation of President Suharto.

The King said he and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah were confident that Habibie would be able to take Indonesia to greater prosperity and more rapid economic development.

Dr Mahathir, in his message to Habibie, said he was thankful that the transition of power was done in accordance with the constitution of Indonesia.

"I hope with your appointment, peace will return to Indonesia and the country will prosper again as aspired by all Indonesians," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he believed Habibie would be able to solve any problem and overcome challenges faced by the country.

"I am confident the Indonesian people will rally behind your able leadership to lead Indonesia into the next millennium."

He said he also hoped relations between both countries would be enhanced.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Suharto had fulfilled his promise to Indonesians that he would relinquish his post following the latest developments in Indonesia.

"I believe Suharto resigned in the interests of his people and country," he said when contacted in Cartagena, Colombia. Abdullah is in Colombia to attend the meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement.

He hoped with the appointment of Habibie, relations between Indonesia and Malaysia would be strengthened.

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