

17 APR 1998

KING CONGRATULATES MUGABE ON ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have conveyed their congratulations to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on his country's Independence Day on April 18.

They expressed the hope that Zimbabwe would continue to progress and maintain close relationship with Malaysia under Mugabe's leadership, a Foreign Ministry statement here says.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also sent a message to Mugabe and expressed the hope that the two countries would strengthen their cooperation in the years to come.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi sent a similar message to his counterpart Stan Mudenge.

-- BERNAMA

ARA JK