

09 AUG 1998

Brunei

KING CONGRATULATES BRUNEI ON PROCLAMATION ON CROWN PRINCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have congratulated Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei on the proclamation of Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as Brunei's Crown Prince tomorrow.

His majesty said: "We convey through You that I and the Raja Permaisuri as well as all Malaysians congratulate Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on being proclaimed as Crown Prince.

"We pray and hope for a smooth proclamation and that it will be a new chapter in Brunei's annals."

The royal message was released by the Foreign Ministry here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also sent a similar congratulatory message to Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

"All Malaysians and I are thankful and rejoicing over the proclamation of your highness' son, Pengiran Muda Haji Muhtadee Billah as his highness the Crown Prince," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia has always been willing to cooperate with Brunei in line with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's endeavours to guide Brunei into a more dynamic era in the interests of both countries and the region.

Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee was born on Feb 17 1974 at Istana Darul Hana in Bandar Seri Begawan.

His highness was educated at the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College.

As a keen sportsman, his highness plays badminton, sepak takraw and snooker.

-- BERNAMA

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