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King sends greetings to Ramos over centennial celebrations

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar and the Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Najihah today extended their congratulations to President Fidel Ramos on the occasion of the Philippines' centennial celebrations of independence tomorrow.

The King hopes relations between the two countries will be further consolidated for the benefit of their people.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad conveyed his felicitations on the occasion which symbolised a historic achievement for the Filipino people.

Dr Mahathir said the Filipino people's struggle for nationhood and independence 100 years ago had inspired other people of Southeast Asia towards achieving similar goals.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be representing Malaysia at the centenary celebrations in the Philippines.

Congratulating his counterpart Domingo L. Siazon Jr today, Abdullah expressed his confidence that friendly relations between both countries will continue to expand.

Wisma Putra in a Press release today said the official events on the day included the commemoration of the Declaration of the Philippine Independence, a centennial parade and a gala dinner at the Malacanang Palace to be hosted by Ramos.

Abdullah left for Manila today and will return on Saturday.

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