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KING SENDS GREETINGS TO ESTRADA

KUALA LUMPUR, June 29 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have congratulated President-elect Joseph Estrada on his inauguration as the 13th President of the Philippines tomorrow.

"We are confident that the close and cordial relations between our two countries will be further enhanced during Your Excellency's term of presidency," Tuanku Ja'afar said in a statement released by the Foreign Ministry, here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad congratulated Estrada on his victory in the recent Philippine general election.

In his message, the Malaysian leader said: "I am confident that given your strong determination and inspiring leadership, the Republic of the Philippines will continue to enjoy even greater progress and prosperity in the years ahead."

Dr Mahathir said he look forward to working closely with Estrada in enhancing ties between both sides and in strengthening the brotherhood of Asean.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim also sent similar greetings to the new Philippine vice-president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

-- BERNAMA

MAM JK