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King: Work harder to maintain standard of living

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysians will have to put in extra efforts to maintain their standard of living during the current economic situation, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar said today.

In his royal address at the Ma'al Hijrah celebrations in Pusat Islam, the King said Malaysians should not only bolster each other's strength but must also preserve unity at all times.

He said under normal circumstances, education, determination and commitment would be sufficient to help Malaysians achieve their goals.

However, he said, as the nation continued to tackle the economic problems, there should be a concerted effort to maintain the standard of living.

"The Government has been able to ensure harmony through economic and financial reforms, including exercising prudence in spending," he said.

Among those present were the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The King emphasised that efforts would not suffice if society did not play its part to increase productivity besides being prudent in spending.

"Malaysians have to a certain degree adjusted to the economic climate.

"Many have turned to fish breeding besides being prudent in their spending."

The King said the nation had been successful in development programmes based on Islamic guidelines - to manage the economy and expenditure based on fiqh al Aulawiyat.

"However, this can be further improved with increase in food production and conceptualisation of more agriculture-oriented infrastructure."

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