

11 JUN 1998

Philippines-Message

KING, MAHATHIR SEND GREETINGS TO THE PHILIPPINES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 11 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah today congratulated President Fidel Ramos on the occasion of the Philippines' independence centennial celebration tomorrow.

Tuanku Ja'afar said they were happy to see the tremendous development and progress that had been attained by the Philippines over the years.

"We are also confident that relations between our two countries will continue to be further enhanced and consolidated for the mutual benefit of our two peoples," he said in a message released by the Foreign Ministry.

In his message to President Ramos, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the event symbolised a historic achievement for the Filipino people in their struggle for nationhood which inspired other peoples of Southeast Asia towards achieving similar goals.

He expressed the hope that the existing friendly relations between both countries would strengthen.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi also sent similar greetings to his counterpart, Domingo Siazon.

Meanwhile, Wisma Putra said Abdullah will represent the Malaysian government at the celebration in Manila tomorrow.

The official events will include the commemoration of the Declaration of the Philippine Independence, a grand centennial parade and a gala dinner at the Malacanang Palace to be hosted by Ramos.

--BERNAMA

MAM ABG