

16 AUG 1998

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT HABIBIE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar has sent a congratulatory message to President B.J. Habibie on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of Indonesia's independence tomorrow.

The King expressed the hope that the existing close ties between the two neighbours would be further enhanced and that Indonesia could solve whatever problems and challenges it was facing.

"The Raja Permaisuri Agong and I pray that President Habibie could continue leading the country towards greater economic development and prosperity," Tuanku Ja'afar said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad sent a similar message to Habibie, calling on the President and the Indonesian people to be steadfast in facing current challenges.

"With the existing cooperatiion, I am confident that we would continue strenghtening the bridge of friendship and cordial relations between the peoples of Malaysia and Indonesia," he said.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi sent a similar message to his counterpart Ali Alatas.

-- BERNAMA
AFY GM SK