

30 AUG 1999

Merdeka-China

CONGRATS FROM CHINESE LEADERS ON MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Chinese President Jiang Zemin today congratulated the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah on the occasion of Malaysia's 42nd National Day tomorrow.

He said 25 years had passed since China and Malaysia established diplomatic relations with remarkable progress achieved in various fields.

China was willing to make joint and unremitting efforts with Malaysia to forge a lasting relationship of good-neighbourliness, good-partner and good-friend, Jiang said in a message issued by the Chinese Embassy here.

"Over the past 42 years, Malaysian people of all nationalities, with their diligence and wisdom, have continuously made renewed achievements in building their wonderful homeland which have won deep admiration of the Chinese people," he said.

Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji in his message to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians with their industrious efforts had made admirable achievements in the national economic growth.

"Especially when facing the impact of the Asian financial crisis under the prominent leadership of your Excellency, Malaysia has adopted a series of positive measures and achieved significant results on which we would like to express our heartfelt delightness," he said.

Zhu expressed confidence that through Dr Mahathir's recent successful visit to China, all directional friendly cooperation oriented towards the new century between the two countries would proceed in an in-depth, broad and better way.

In his message to Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said he was ready to further develop and consolidate friendly relations between both sides.

Meanwhile, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said in a statement that the kind of unity needed was the unity of Malaysians, regardless of race, arising from the consciousness that they had a common bond and destiny to create a united, just, free, prosperous and vibrant civil society.

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism in a statement appreciated the priority given by the national leaders for inter-religious harmony.

Its president A.Vaithilingam said in consistent with the stable leadership and the mutual understanding shown by the people of different races and religion, "our beloved country has come a long way to enter the next millennium as one of the developed countries of the world in such a short period of 42 years."

He said the council believed that the country's leadership would maintain all guarantees on freedom of worship as enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

"The council calls on all Malaysians to pray to the Almighty God for continued prosperity and harmony for our beloved Malaysia," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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