

19 MAR 1999

KING, MAHATHIR CONGRATULATE TUNISIAN PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar today congratulated President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of Tunisia's national day.

"We are confident that the close ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will continue to be strengthened for the mutual benefit of the peoples of Malaysia and Tunisia," his majesty said in his congratulatory message.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also sent a similar message to his counterpart Dr Hamed Karoui.

Dr Mahathir said he looked forward to consolidating further the close ties that existed between Malaysia and Tunisia.

"I hope that in the coming years Tunisia will continue to enjoy greater progress and prosperity," he said.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar also sent a similar message to his counterpart Said Ben Mustapha, the statement added.

-- BERNAMA

RA RYN