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King: Let us be grateful to God for our successes

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah today said Muslims should be grateful to God now that they, together with their leaders - once weak and disdained - had become a proud and respected community.

He said the country had progressed to a level that the people could be proud of, but the peace and prosperity enjoyed now did not come easily, but over a long, difficult period.

"Therefore, let us be grateful to God for the success of our joint efforts and the effectiveness of our approaches," the King said when launching the national-level Maal Hijrah celebration at the Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil.

This year's theme is Bersyukur Tanda Keteguhan Iman (Gratitude reflects the strength of faith).

The King said efforts to develop the country and its people started as soon as independence was achieved.

Among those present were the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmud, Cabinet ministers and their wives.

In the context of the Muslims in particular and the people's well-being in general, the King said he was satisfied with the situation.

"Since attaining independence, the main agenda has been the administration of the country to ensure that everyone enjoys a good life.

"Leaders, administrators, entrepreneurs and every citizen have given their commitment to ensure prosperity and progress for the country and its people."

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong said Prophet Muhammad's hijrah from Mecca to Medina was very meaningful to the Muslims as it was the historic turning point that had improved their lives.

In Islam, being grateful for all that had been granted by God is the sign of a person's strong faith, apart from enabling him to examine himself.

"We get to know who we are and where we stand. Being grateful also enables us to appreciate the deeds and sacrifices of others."

He said the prosperity and peace enjoyed by Muslims today did not come easily, but through the struggles and sacrifices of many people.

Being grateful for all God's gifts can also intensify efforts for greater achievements.

With these attitudes the Muslims will strengthen their faith and strive to achieve a better life in this world and in the hereafter.

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