

Enhance unity for progress, says King

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Love one another as the Prophet directed, is his New Year message

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KUALA LUMPUR Mon
Muslims in Malaysia need to
enhance their unity to
achieve progress and ensure
the country's peace and pros-
perity

Yang diPertuan Agong
Sultan Salahuddin Abdul
Aziz Shah also called on
Muslims to love one another
as the Prophet Muhammad
directed. Your faith is not
complete until you have loved
your brother as you have
loved yourself.

He said. One of the pre-
requisites of development is
unity.

In managing our lives,
differences in opinion should
not be the obstacle to achiev-
ing our development objec-
tives.

Muslims should realise
that anything that leads to
disunity should be averted
because disunity will destroy
the Muslims.

The destruction of the
ummah is a nightmare which
continually haunts us and we
must not allow it to become a
reality, he said at Stadium
Putra Bukit Jalil.

The King was speaking at
the Maal Hijrah celebration
for the Muslim year 1422
themed *Perpaduan Pemang-
kin Pembangunan Ummah*
(Unity is the Catalyst for the
Development of Ummah).

Among the other digni-
taries present were Prime
Minister Datuk Seri Dr
Mahathir Mohamad, his
deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah
Ahmad Badawi, Defence
Minister Datuk Seri Najib
Tun Razak, Minister in the
Prime Minister's Depart-
ment Brig Gen (rtd) Datuk
Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin
and Inspector General of Po-
lice Tan Sri Norian Mai.

About 3,000 Muslims took
part in the gathering.

In his speech, the King
also stressed that efforts in

the pursuit of development
and advancement as de-
manded by Islam are manda-
tory.

From the Islamic per-
spective, these efforts are

mandatory because many
matters relating to develop-
ment form a part of our
social obligations (*fardhu
kifayah*).

Muslims in the country

need to be involved in any
programme planned by the
government as their involve-
ment is crucial for the sake of
religion and the Islamic com-
munity, he said.