

25 APR 2002

Agong-Speech (with pix)

AGONG HAPPY WITH GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATION

KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong today expressed happiness with the administration of the present government, saying that it is efficient and responsible and thus able to effectively implement the various development programmes.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail said this had had a positive effect on the people's life.

"The system of government based on parliamentary democracy practised by our country has proven to have given the people the freedom to determine the political direction of the country, religious freedom, cultural freedom, language freedom, the freedom to seek wealth and education and so forth," he said.

He said this at his installation as the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara, here.

He said the freedom enshrined in the Federal Constitution had contributed to Malaysia's success as a leading democratic country.

The people should, therefore, be thankful as this special feature had ensured stability, prosperity and development in the country all this while, and would continue to do so in future, he said.

The King was also grateful that the country's economy had recovered after a slowdown last year caused by the world economic downturn.

"One of the reasons we managed to restore the country's economy is the trait among our multiracial population to always have a strong will to struggle until they succeed," he said.

Besides that, Malaysians were also always willing to respect one another.

"This tolerant attitude has brought us success in many fields including political, social and economic. The positive attitude shown and practised by the people will enable our country to continue developing even more rapidly," he said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong also believed that with the determination of all parties to safeguard the country's moral code and high integrity, Malaysia would be able to become a developed country by 2020.

Malaysia would also be respected throughout the world not only as a progressive country but also as one with a multiracial population that had successfully learnt to live in harmony and unity and to uphold high moral principles, he added.

He also thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who pledged loyalty to him on behalf of the government, civil servants and the people.

-- BERNAMA

NM AZH SK JK