

14 DEC 2002
Agong-Vietnam
KING JOINS AIDILFITRI DO IN VIETNAM

By: Siti Aishah Mohamad

HANOI, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid joined 100 Malaysians at an Aidilfitri function held here last night.

The function was held in conjunction with the royal couple's five-day visit to Vietnam.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, who surprised the guests with an impromptu speech to close the function, said the party was such a joyous occasion and difficult to end.

In his speech, the King urged Malaysians staying abroad to uphold the country's image by always being courteous and polite as each of them was the country's "ambassador" in the foreign countries.

"If Malaysians abroad are ill-mannered and disrespectful of the laws in the country which they are staying, then Malaysia's image will be smeared," he said.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob who is the minister-in-attendance and Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam Mohd Radzi Abdul Rahman were also present.

His Majesty said Malaysia was held in high esteem by other nations in the world due to the efforts of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It takes many years to build a nation but to destroy it will only take a short time," he said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong also congratulated Malaysian investors in Vietnam for making Malaysia the 12th largest investor nation in Vietnam.

He called on the successful Malaysian investors to encourage their compatriots to venture here.

-- BERNAMA

SA MFJ MAI ZUL