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Agong-Speech/BM

UPHOLD RELIGION AND EASTERN VALUES, ADVISES THE KING

KUALA LUMPUR, May 31 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail today called on the people to strongly uphold religion and noble eastern values in efforts at tackling social problems.

As such, the King wanted the people who were responsible in educating the children, namely the parents and teachers especially the religious teachers to strive to inculcate and instil good values through religious education and culture.

"Parents and educators must inculcate good examples to their children and the young generation.

"The rampant cases of incest now occurred because those responsible for developing good personality for the young generation have failed," said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in conjunction with his official birthday anniversary which was telecast by RTM.

He called on everyone particularly the government, parents and teachers to give serious attention to the problem.

"These crimes must be checked if we want to see the future generation to have better morals," the King said.

On racial tolerance, he expressed happiness at the tolerant attitude of the people to the extent that no particular race was being suppressed by the other races as was occurring in other countries.

"The tolerant attitude and mutual respect, cooperation and understanding between the races have moulded our country into one that is peaceful, safe, progressive and prospering.

"Even the foreigners who come to our country are impressed that the people here can live and work together," the Yang di-Pertuan Agong said.

He said the development achieved by the country all this while would be meaningless if the people were divided, there was enmity between them or that they were living in fear.

In terms of development, he praised the attitude of the government that was concerned about and sensitive to the plight of the people especially the poor.

He said the government had strived with determination to raise the standard of living of the people regardless of race, culture and religion.

"The government policy to ensure social balance among the plural society has been proven to be successful because through wise economic development strategies, the number of people lagging behind in the country's economic development mainstream has declined.

"Poverty level has been reduced significantly and the government's wisdom in balancing economic development with the people's social needs has brought about peace and prosperity to the people," the King said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong also expressed his satisfaction at the measures taken by the government to ensure that no ethnic group or sector of society including women, youths, the elderly and the less fortunate groups were left behind.

He congratulated the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for having administered the country efficiently and with commitment.

--BERNAMA

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