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Agong-Ulama

WORK TOGETHER TO CURB SOCIAL ILLS, ULAMA AND MISSIONARIES TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail today called for a change in the approach to curb social ills from that of punishing, blaming others and "holding public lectures".

Instead, ulama and missionaries needed to work together in efforts to prevent occurrence of such social diseases like incest and rape of children, he said.

"Care and affection as well as sincere desire to extend help to those ridden with these ills is the dakwah demanded by Islam," the King said in his speech when opening the first sitting of the first session of the 11th Parliament here today.

Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were present.

His Royal Highness said the social ills would be eradicated with continuous and concerted efforts from all parties.

"Moral deterioration and social ills are elements which disrupt harmony in the society, race, nation and human civilization," said the King.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin also called on parents, ulama, religious teachers, missionaries and Muslim intellectuals to jointly share the tasks to eradicate social diseases.

He said the Government would continue to aggressively explain the true Islamic teachings to clear misinterpretations and misunderstanding of the religion.

Such misinterpretations were potential causes of extremism and terrorism which could split Muslims and destabilise the country, he said.

On the nation's high accident rate which claimed many lives especially during festive seasons, the King said Government's efforts to deal with the problem would be hampered by continued disregard of road safety by motorists.

On the Government's efforts to educate the public, apart from stepping

up enforcement and providing better infrastructures, the King said, "all measures will come to naught if motorists do not change their attitude on road safety."

On Public Service, he said the sector's lack of transparency and efficiency could pave the way for misappropriation and corruption.

He said these factors could push the costs of living and production up, affecting the quality of services and products.

This could scare local and foreign investors away and threaten the nation's economic growth, he said.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin called for the Public Service's delivery system to be boosted to ensure efficient, smooth and fair execution of work in the sector.

He said among the Government's measures towards this direction was the major restructuring of ministries to tighten their respective functions and organisations.

"This is to provide better services to the people," said Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin.

On corruption, the King said despite the problem not being rampant in the country, it should be given immediate attention.

He said the Government had pledged that all investigations on corruption cases would be done transparently and according to the country's law and order.

On the Members of Parliament (MPs), he said their debate should have quality and their active participation in the parliamentary sittings was crucial to image of the House and country's democratic principles.

"Carry out the tasks with the aim of enhancing the House's sanctity and status by upholding the spirit of democracy and with full maturity," he said.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin reminded MPs to forge closer relations despite coming from different political parties.

"This should be reflected in good behaviour especially inside this House," he said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong also thanked former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his contributions and sacrifices during his

22-year
leadership of the government.

"As a determined, strict and visionary leader, he managed to bring glory for the the country and turned Malaysia into a respected nation, not only among the Islamic and developing countries, but also among the developed nations," he said.

The King also congratulated Abdullah over his appointment as Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister and for leading the Barisan Nasional to a landslide victory in the last general election.

-- BERNAMA

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