

Agong: Lies, distortion in new media
Malaysiakini.com
Mar 15, 2010
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The Agong has expressed disappointment that freedom of expression in the new media has been abused.

agong arrive at parliament 150310 03Opening the third session of the 12th Parliament this morning, Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin noted that "slander, lies and distortion of facts still prevail" in the new media.

"All parties involved must realise that no religion condones such actions. We urge them to cease committing these irresponsible acts," he said.

He called for "stern action" by the authorities against those involved, although no specific examples of abuse were cited in the royal address,

"Freedom of speech is one of the features of a democratic and mature society. However, freedom of speech is not an excuse for any party to demean others to the extent of inflaming conflict and inciting racial sentiments," he said.

Tuanku Mizan praised the government of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

najib visit petaling street front image "All leaders should emulate the prime minister's walkabout approach in getting closer to the people to better understand their problems and foster close relationship with the people from all walks of life," he said.

Also lauded were Najib's 1Malaysia concept and the government transformation programme, described as a "bold" step.

Other key aspects of the speech touched on economic recovery, with the Gross Domestic Product having recorded 4.5 percent growth last year.

"Despite the difficulties caused by the global economic recession, it has been a blessing in disguise. It has motivated us to optimise our resources and opportunities in order to overcome difficulties," he said.

The RM24.5 billion spent in subsidies last year have not only benefited the low-income group, but also high-income earners and foreigners.

"These subsidies will be restructured and gradually reduced. However, vulnerable groups will continue to be assisted in order to reduce their burden.

"In this regard, we call upon the people to be far-sighted and ready to accept the change."

Good conduct 'paramount'

The House also heard the monarch's views on development of human capital and education.

education03 "Holistic development of human capital will include a comprehensive consolidation of our education system to ensure that every individual is given the opportunity to demonstrate one's fullest potential and talent."

Tuanku Mizan reminded members of parliament of the necessity of "good conduct" and expressed regret that there are those who still display "manners and speeches unbecoming of elected representatives".

"Please bear in mind that all of you are constantly being watched by the people. Honourable members should debate constructively and not dwell on trivial issues that may tarnish their personal image and dignity, as we as the sanctity of this august House," he added.

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/126536>