

King: Be thrifty and productive

NS7-2/6/2007.

KUALA LUMPUR: Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin last night advised the people to save more money.

He also reminded traders not to raise prices of goods indiscriminately just because government servants would get a salary increase from July.

Addressing the nation over radio and television in conjunction with his official birthday today, Tuanku Mizan hoped the additional income would encourage civil servants to improve work quality and boost productivity.

"I hope that those who enjoy the higher income will plan their expenditure in a more realistic manner and increase their savings to guarantee a better future for themselves."

The king said the additional income for civil servants would mean nothing if traders raised the prices of essential goods.

"I wish to remind traders not to take advantage of the situation to raise the prices of goods. The people will feel the impact of higher prices and the higher salary will be meaningless."

Tuanku Mizan also ex-

pressed appreciation and full support for the commitment and determination of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in fighting corruption and abuse of authority as well as enhancing integrity.

"I urge all members of the civil service and the people to remain united and offer their co-operation and full support for these efforts.

"It is my desire to see an end to corruption and irregularities so that the people can become citizens who are highly regarded."

The king was thankful that under the leadership of Abdullah, the country was prosperous and its economic position was most inspiring, with the Bursa Malaysia composite index showing encouraging performance and attaining a historic high level.

He was happy to see that all programmes and initiatives drawn up under the Ninth Malaysia Plan were proceeding smoothly. He hoped that the government would continue to remain committed and determined in implementing all the planned projects.

Tuanku Mizan also referred to this year's 50th anniversary

of the country's independence and urged the people to appreciate the struggles their forefathers had undergone in their quest to gain independence.

He said independence, which brought about absolute freedom, was of utmost value but many people born after "Merdeka" (independence) were unable to appreciate the difficulties their forefathers had experienced.

"If we do not appreciate the history of the struggle to gain independence, we may not be able to appreciate the freedom that we enjoy.

"Therefore, understand, appreciate and live the history of the struggle for independence so that we can really appreciate and value our freedom."

Tuanku Mizan also expressed the hope for the people of various races to live in unity, which he said should transcend all matters.

He said the people of various races should take advantage of every opportunity to mingle more and know and understand one another better so that they develop compassion for one another. This, he said, should be done with cordiality,

sincerity and conviction and without suspicion, in schools, offices, public places or anywhere.

Tuanku Mizan acknowledged that it was not easy for people of various races and religions to live in a country and share everything in peace and harmony.

"Nevertheless, we Malaysians have proven that our diversity of race, religion and culture is not a hurdle or problem but a uniqueness that moulds our strength."

The king touched on the efforts to achieve developed nation status, as contained in the objectives of Vision 2020, and said the global competition that the people had to face was both competitive and challenging.

Therefore, he said, the people should be prepared to shoulder their responsibilities and play their respective roles with devotion.

"The people of Malaysia should become empowered and dynamic citizens with not only mastery of knowledge and expertise but also high moral and ethical values as well as be physically healthy and active," he said. — Bernama