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'Use mosque to promote unity'

As an institution it should play a role in preventing animosity, says King

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KUALA LUMPUR: Mosques must play a role in promoting unity and preventing animosity among the congregations, said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah.

"I hope the institution of the mosque will play a role in preventing disunity and animosity from occurring in society," he said in his royal address during the National Mosque's 50th anniversary celebrations here yesterday.

He called on the nation's Muslims to liven up mosques with appropriate programmes in line with current times.

He also desired to see mosques help resolve various challenges faced by the society.

"I hope that the institution of the mosque will always be a resolution to the challenges in society, be it in issues of declining faith, morality and others," he said.

The King said mosques should not only be a symbol but a source of

development and direction for the future of Muslims in the country.

He called on the Government and Malaysians to take care of the status and sanctity of the National Mosque as a national heritage that has gained world recognition.

He praised the National Mosque management for being a role model for other mosques in the country to emulate.

The King, who was accompanied by the Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah Hamidun, later visited an exhibition and also launched a special commemorative book including specially minted silver and gold coins to mark the occasion.

Also present at the celebrations were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his deputy Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the nation's first Prime Minister, commissioned the building of the National Mosque in 1959. It was officially opened by the third Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Aug 27, 1965.



National heritage: The King and Queen looking at a model of the National Mosque with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom (third from left) in Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama