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IT'S A UNIQUE SYSTEM, SAYS PM

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It is a continuity of the tradition of Malay rulers, says Najib

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Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Muhammad V with Malay rulers at Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

THE installation ceremony of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is a manifestation of the royal institution of the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his congratulatory address at the installation of Sultan Muhammad V as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong yesterday, said the country's constitutional monarchy was unique.

"This shows how strong the system is, practised since six decades ago, in installing the custodian of Islam, defender of the Malays and rights of all citizens."

He added that the institution of the monarchy in the context of the Federal Government was a reflection of the "personification of the nation" and the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was a manifestation of the Rukun Negara's ideology, which was fundamental to a prosperous and independent nation.

"The institution of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is unique. It is not through a voting system by the people, and it is also not hereditary.

"The institution is none other than a continuity of the tradition of Malay rulers."

Najib also spoke about current developments, especially the Na-

tional Transformation Policy, which he said would be the catalyst for steering Malaysia towards becoming a developed nation.

Najib said he would table the programme's sixth annual report by the end of the month.

He said the programme had achieved many successes.

"Although the country is not spared from facing the global economic downturn, according to the World Bank, our economy will grow by 4.3 per cent this year.

"Last week, I, as the prime minister, on behalf of His Majesty's government, had launched a new chapter to the Bumiputera policy, 45 years after the New Economic Policy was introduced by my late father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, in 1971," he said.

Najib said the next phase in the

Bumiputera policy was the transformation of their welfare in an inclusive manner, not only taking into account their participation in the economy, but across all aspects of life.

He said the government would boost security in the country's waters and entry points.

Najib expressed his deep gratitude to Sultan Muhammad V in conjunction with his installation.

"I, on behalf of the government, together with Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi), and members of the administration and the people, will always pray that His Majesty is bestowed the strength and guidance, as well as good health during his reign," he said.

Additional reporting by Zafira Anwar