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PM on vital role of monarchy

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> 'System unique to Malaysia and practised orderly'

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said the institution of the monarchy is a reflection of the "personification of the nation".

He said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is a reflection of the "Adicita" or Rukun Negara ideology, and is fundamental to a prosperous and independent nation, Bernama reported.

"The institution of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is unique to Malaysia because it is not the practice in other countries that practise monarchy in the world. 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 the royal Malay rulers since time immemorial," he said when delivering his congratulatory speech and pledge of loyalty during the installation of Sultan Muhammad V as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara.

Najib said the system of Constitutional Monarchy practised in Malaysia was also orderly according to the principles specified on the spirit that the ruler and the people cannot be separated.

On developments in the country, particularly on the National Transformation Policy, he said it would be the catalyst to drive Malaysia towards becoming a

developed nation.

Najib said the programme's sixth annual report showed it had achieved many successes and received recognition from various international bodies.

"Thank God, although the country is not spared from the global economic downturn, according to the World Bank, our economy will hopefully grow by 4.3% in 2017.

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

Najib said the next phase in the bumiputra 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.

On national security, he said the government would increase the security level, especially in the country's waters and at entry points.

Najib, representing the government, security forces, civil servants and the people of Malaysia, also expressed gratitude to Sultan Muhammad V, in conjunction with his installation.

Sultan Muhammad V replaced the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, who ended his term on Dec 12.