

PM: Govt committed to rehabilitating nation

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed said the government is committed to rehabilitating the country and liberating it from corruption and abuse of power.

This, he said, was being done by strengthening the country's administration based on the principle of the rule of law and separation of powers, as enshrined in the Constitution.

"I hope the country will be fully liberated from all forms of corruption so that a New Malaysia can be further developed, more than ever before," he said in his congratulatory speech at the investiture of federal awards and honours in conjunction with the official birthday of Yang di-Peraturan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah at Istana Negara here.

Dr Mahathir said the government would always respect and defend the sovereignty of the institution of the constitutional monarchy, the position of Islam as the federal religion, special privileges of Malays and Bumiputeras, as well as the rights of other races as stated in the Constitution.

He said the government was aware of economic uncertainties and the increasingly challenging global geopolitical system, including free trade barriers and global currency instability, which could

affect the country.

As such, he said, the government had drawn up strategies at national and international levels to overcome the challenges.

Dr Mahathir said the government's efforts to rehabilitate the country's financial position and economic performance, as well as to fulfil its promises to the people, had begun to bear fruit.

At the same time, he said initiatives under the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 had been implemented to ensure the nation's wealth could be distributed more broadly to stimulate economic growth and increase the people's income.

He said the 62nd National Day celebration, with the theme "Sayangi Malaysiaku: Malaysia Bersih" had brought the unity and solidarity of the country's multiracial people into prominence.

He said it proved Malaysians could come together and share a common value in a very harmonious way, regardless of race, background and beliefs.

"This is a manifestation of Malaysian unity, which will be preserved and strengthened. Needless to say, development programmes and projects can only be successfully implemented if the country is peaceful and well organised.

"The people are more mature

now in facing threats to unity. The government, however, will continue strengthening national unity and discharging its duties to preserve racial harmony."

On the national development agenda, Dr Mahathir said the government would continue to engage young people and instil in them the spirit of volunteerism, entrepreneurship and good values so that they would be more productive and competitive in the face of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In the pursuit of modernisation, he said the government would continue to ensure the environment was protected and not neglected.

"Those responsible for environmental pollution will face stern action, and to prevent incidents from recurring, all quarters have been urged to play a better role in protecting the environment."

Dr Mahathir congratulated Al-Sultan Abdullah in conjunction with His Majesty's official birthday celebration yesterday.

"On behalf of the government and the people, I pledge to give our undivided loyalty to the king. May Allah bless His Majesty, as well as the Raja Permaisuri Agong and the royal family with His Taufik and Hidayah, long life, good health and lasting wellbeing." **Bernama**