

Govt vows to rid country of corruption: Tun Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is committed to rehabilitating the country and liberating it from corruption and abuse of power, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The prime minister said this was being done by strengthening the country's administration based on the rule of law and separation of powers as enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

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

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

Mahathir also said the government was aware of the economic uncertainty

and the increasingly challenging global geopolitical system, including the many barriers to free trade, as well as global currency instability, which could affect the country.

He said as such, the government had drawn up strategies in its bid to overcome the challenges.

Mahathir also said that government 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.

He said initiatives under the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 had already been implemented to ensure the nation's wealth can be distributed more broadly to stimulate economic growth and increase the people's income.

Mahathir also said the 62nd National day celebration on Aug 31 with the theme "Sayang Malaysiaku: Malaysia Bersih" had brought unity and solidarity of the people into prominence.

Mahathir also congratulated Sultan Abdullah in conjunction with His Majesty's birthday celebration.

"On behalf of the government and the people, I pledge to give our undivided loyalty to the King."

- Bernama