

'EMULATE TUN DR ISMAIL'S LEADERSHIP'

King: Ex-DPM played crucial role in strengthening harmony between races, religions

KUALA LUMPUR

YANG di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah called on Malaysians, especially leaders, to appreciate and emulate the exemplary leadership and statesmanship of the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rah-

man in nation-building.

Comptroller of the Royal Household of Istana Negara, Major-General Datuk Zahari Mohd Ariffin, said His Majesty believed Dr Ismail was an irreplaceable statesman.

He said the king described the late statesman as one of the main figures in promoting national unity who played a crucial role in strengthening harmony between the diverse races and religions of Malaysia, especially after the 1969 racial riots.

"His Majesty acknowledges that throughout Tun Dr Ismail's tenure as deputy prime minister and member of the cabinet, he had displayed outstanding qualities of

humility integrity and a willingness to contribute to the country.

"His Majesty hopes the deeds and sacrifices of the late Tun Dr Ismail will not only serve as an inspiration and example to all Malaysians, but also be emulated by the community and political leaders for the prosperity and wellbeing of our beloved nation," Zahari said in a statement.

He said the king was delighted by and welcomed the government's initiatives, particularly the Communications and Digital Ministry's programme yesterday, to honour Dr Ismail during National Month this year.

"His Majesty says that besides commemorating and honouring

Tun Dr Ismail's contributions, the programme can also help instil and enhance the spirit of patriotism among the people, especially the younger generation, so that they do not forget or take for granted the sacrifices made by the country's statesmen like Tun Dr Ismail.

"His Majesty also prays for Allah SWT's mercy upon the late Tun Dr Ismail and that his soul be placed among the pious and the righteous."

For National Month, Zahari said the king invited the entire nation to join in praying for Malaysia's continued prosperity, wellbeing, lasting unity and protection from calamity and disasters. **Bernama**



Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman