

King's speech a reminder for MPs to serve the people well
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KUALA LUMPUR: Members of Parliament have described the speech by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah as a reminder for them to serve the *rakyat* well because it is "the people that matter".

MPs both from Barisan Nasional and Opposition alike also respected the King's advice for the people to safeguard and defend the Federal Constitution.

While Barisan MPs noted that the King had highlighted the Government's many programmes and policies, their Opposition colleagues said it was important to ensure policies were successfully implemented and would benefit the people.

Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the Federal Government respected the King's speech and that it would implement all its projects as promised.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the King also touched on security issues and the Government was committed in increasing its efforts especially in combating transborder crimes, which include smuggling of migrants, human trafficking and money laundering.

He said the two new security laws would include changes in the detention period, treatment and rights of detainees, the treatment of their families and the appeal process for them.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong said the King's speech was an endorsement that the Federal Government's programmes and policies were on the right track.

"The King highlighted some of Barisan's major achievements and we are committed to meet all our targets for the betterment of the country," he said.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, who is Bagan MP, said he supported any policy which could benefit the people.

"But at the same time, the people must be realistic when facing problems like corruption. We do not see any transformation in this aspect," he said.

Shah Alam MP Abdul Khalid Abdul Samad said youths played a vital role in transforming the country and should not engage in racial politics.

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