

**Appreciate Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Advice - Ministers And Deputy Ministers
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah's call for the public to strengthen unity and support the government's development agenda is most apt and should be valued by all Malaysians, according to several Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

Information, Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said Tuanku Abdul Halim's view was spot on and must be appreciated.

He said his ministry would work harder to increase broadband penetration nationwide which would facilitate communication between the government and the people.

The ministry aimed to obtain 65 per cent broadband penetration and among the projects implemented for this included the provision of computers, wireless village and e-government portals, he told reporters when asked to comment on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's speech during the opening of the first meeting of the fifth session of the 12th parliament, here Monday.

Tuanku Abdul Halim, in his address, expressed pride over the improvements in the government delivery system, especially online services supported by the National Broadband Initiative which reached 63 per cent penetration nationwide last year.

He also congratulated the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) and Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) on their creative cooperation through the National Blue Ocean Strategy to reduce crime and preserve public order without incurring high costs.

He said the Global Peace Index had recognised Malaysia as the 19th most peaceful country in the world, the second most peaceful in Asia while it ranked first in South-East Asia.

Commenting on the matter, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the ministry was also proud of the declining crime rate as a result of efforts carried out by all parties involved.

He said to eradicate transnational crime, security legislations such as the one replacing the Internal Security Act (ISA), must balance current rights and claims so public interest was not affected, especially by syndicates and terrorist militant groups.

Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said he appreciated Tuanku Abdul Halim's views on the importance of increasing the income of rural dwellers as well as their welfare and comfort.

Deputy Education Minister Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi said the King's statement that the public must avoid actions that might jeopardise the country's sovereignty was in line with the Dewan Rakyat sitting which was an avenue for debate for members of parliament.

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