

Sultan Perak Reminds Politicians To Display Political Maturity When Campaigning In Polls

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KUALA KANGSAR, April 19 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, has reminded political leaders to display high sense of responsibility and maturity when campaigning in the run-up to the May 5 general election.

He said they should refrain from sensitive issues and arouse the people's sentiments (to score political mileage).

The Ruler conveyed his message in the speech by the Regent of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, at the royal banquet hosted in conjunction with his 85th birthday at Istana Iskandariah here Friday.

Raja Nazrin said Sultan Azlan Shah had reminded that matters pertaining to religion, race, culture and language, if exploited without a sense of responsibility, could harm the prevailing unity among the people.

"He has urged his subjects to display prudent behaviour to ensure the survival of an independent and a sovereign nation.

"We should uphold the democratic principles and practices maturely and responsibly," Raja Nazrin said.

Sultan Azlan Shah said he had trust and confidence in the wisdom and experience of the various institutions in the country, particularly the Election Commission and security forces, to ensure that the 13th general election was conducted smoothly and peacefully.

Raja Nazrin said Sultan Azlan Shah had reminded that the peace and prosperity enjoyed by the nation and the people were blessings from God which should be preserved at all times.

Sultan Perak, who has been following political developments in the run-up to the May 5 general election, reiterated that the royal household was apolitical.

"In fact, Sultan Azlan Shah stressed the importance of the royal family in displaying their impartiality so that the ruler can play his role as a fair and just arbitrator to help solve a conflict or a dispute, if it arises," he said.

Raja Nazrin said the Sultan of Perak, who still needs to rest, conveyed his regards and that of Raja Permaisuri Perak, Tuanku Bainun, to his subjects for their prayers and well wishes for his speedy recovery.

"Although he still needs to rest, Sultan Azlan Shah never neglected his responsibility to the state. He has asked his birthday to be celebrated in a symbolic manner as a mark of respect to the important role played by the Ruler and the royal household," he added.

Meanwhile, Sultan Azlan Shah's 85th birthday celebrations were observed on a moderate scale, with the royal banquet attended by members of the royal family, state government and community leaders, heads of government departments and agencies as well as representatives of non-governmental organisations.

Yassin and Tahlil prayers were recited at the Ubudiah Mosque here before Friday prayers.

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