

**Paying-homage Text of Speech of Prime Minister at Investiture at The Istana Negara
Bernama
June 7, 2014**

KUALA LUMPUR, June 7 (Bernama) -- Following is the text of the speech of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in paying homage to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, at the investiture at Istana Negara Saturday in conjunction with the birthday of His Majesty.

Your Majesty,

1. Seeking the indulgence of Your Majesty, Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbudin Tuanku Al-Haj Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah. Seeking the indulgence of Your Majesty, Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Hajah Haminah.

Your Majesty,

2. At this event on this beautiful and calm morning, with all solemnness, I, in representing the Government, security forces, civil servants and all Malaysians, pay the highest homage in conjunction with the third official birthday in the reign of Tuanku as the 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

3. This morning, June 7, 2014, coinciding with 9 Syaaban 1435 Hijriyah, on a glorious day, all of us pray with sincerity for Tuanku and the Raja Permaisuri Agong to continue to enjoy perfect health, at the helm of the nation, with full sovereignty and greatness.

4. Truly, as noted by intellectuals, among them the famous ulama Imam Al-Ghazali in his essay entitled 'Nasihat Al-Muluk', the Rulers are precisely the stars that sparkle and trees that give shade.

As the Malay poem goes:

Burung nuri terbang ke lembah,

Hinggap megah di tengah kota,

1Malaysia merafak sembah,

Daulat Tuanku Payung Mahkota.

Your Majesty,

5. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the people, to record the deepest condolences and sadness, particularly to members of the royalty, over the demise of Yang Teramat Mulia Tan Sri Tunku Annuar Al-Haj ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, chairman of the Kedah Council of Regency, on May 21, coinciding with 21 Rejab. May Allah (God) shower His blessings on the departed soul.

6. The people also express their deepest condolences and sadness over the demise of His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuf Izuddin Shah Ghafarullahu-lah on May 28, coinciding with 28 Rejab. His Royal Highness was the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Let us all pray for the departed soul to be placed among the righteous and believers.

7. For the both of them, let's observe a moment's silence and present the Al-Fatihah...

Your Majesty,

8. Indeed history is things in the past. Things that had happened before. But, we have to always remember the fact that everything happens for a reason.

9. Of course everything existed, or was built and created based on philosophies, principles, laws and regulations. That's the way it is.

That is how a civilisation is built and that is the way an organisation and the workers work.

10. If not, it is impossible for a civilisation, which may have aged hundred or thousands of years, as well as the stability of an organisation or a nation state, can be preserved.

11. In Malaysia, the institution of monarchy, democracy and written Constitution are the inheritance of our fathers. They had indeed made the right choice for a multi-racial country like Malaysia.

12. In this context, the institution of Yang di-Pertuan Agong as the Head of the Country is very unique. Even though the institution, with its powers and relevant duties, is a creation of the Federal Constitution, its establishment is actually based strongly on the

factors of the country's history, traditions and cultures.

13. In specific regards to Your Majesty, since the coronation as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Dec 13, 2011, a history was created when a Sultan is elected to hold the office of the Head of the Country for the second time.

14. The first time was when my late father was the Prime Minister and it is fated that this time around, it is me who is leading the Government. Indeed, everything happens with Allah's will and permission.

15. It is also written in the world's history that Your Majesty is the longest-serving Malay and Muslim Ruler, with the royal lineage that can be traced back to more than a thousand years.

16. Based on that fact, it is undeniable that Your Majesty is a very experienced Ruler, for you have witnessed and legitimised the many testimonies on Malaysia's developments and successes.

17. Not forgetting the experiences of witnessing the country's black episodes, including the emergency era, communist threats and the tragedy of May 13, 1969, which almost tarnished the clean sheet in the country's history book.

18. In fact, Your Majesty also had the privilege of witnessing the administration of all our previous Prime Ministers until today.

Your Majesty,

19. Undeniably, my predecessors, the five former prime ministers, had succeeded in building solid foundations for Malaysia with all their plans and approaches during their respective time in office.

20. It's true that it is not easy to shoulder the responsibility and to discharge all the duties and to continue the success stories created by them.

21. Since taking over the country's leadership in 2009, and without hesitation, the Government has continued formulating strategic plans to transform the country based on the concept of 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now.

Your Majesty,

22. In less than two months, we will celebrate the 57th anniversary of Malaysia's Independence. Malaysia today is not the same as it used to be.

23. Demographically, starting from Arau Perlis, to Semporna Sabah, and Ulu Lachau in Sarawak, Malaysia's population in 1970 numbered only around 11 million. It is projected that the country's population will increase to 30 million in 2020.

24. Indeed, Malaysia is lucky to stay peaceful and harmony. We are unique because our population comprises various races and ethnicities. Despite being different in religion, beliefs and cultures, all of those have become valuable assets and ingredients for our country's development and progress all these years.

25. Basically, for solidarity, stability and public interest, we Malaysians have stayed united under one flag and have rejected any elements of extremism that can cause disunity among us.

26. The fact is, in any of its efforts, the Government has always given priority to the inclusive development approach, be it in urban or rural areas, based on the principle of growth with equity, to enable all people in Malaysia to benefit from the country's economic development and wealth.

Your Majesty,

27. It is another fact that we are facing the challenge of a world without borders, with the emerging of higher and latest technology, information is at our fingertips, and with the birth of new media, we are also facing creativity and innovation challenges.

28. Besides, today's generation is smarter, have their own taste and critical thinking mindset.

29. Touching on the young generation who will inherit the country's leadership, Your Majesty's Government has always emphasised the importance of education. The Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025 will provide a wider and universal access to education to children from the pre-school level up to upper secondary level.

Your Majesty,

30. Realise it or not, a month has passed, marking a year since Your Majesty's Government received the mandate of the people at the 13th general election. Within a few years since 2009, under the National Transformation Policy umbrella, the country

has witnessed numerous sweet moments and proud achievements.

31. Recently, I have tabled the Annual Reports on the Government Transformation Programme or GTP and the Economic Transformation Programme or ETP. If the GTP 1.0 was specifically formulated to transform the system by introducing new steps to improve the quality of public service, the GTP 2.0 will focus on applying extraordinary work practices in ordinary work situations.

32. Hence, I am pleased to inform Your Majesty that based on verification from experts, including non-aligned quarters, the GTP has succeeded in achieving 104 per cent of our overall targets in 2013.

33. For Your Majesty's information, the big transformation agenda for the country had begun with the GTP, ETP, Political Transformation Programme or PTP, Community Transformation Programme or CTP, Social Transformation Programme or STP and Fiscal Transformation Programme or FTP.

34. All of these programmes have been formulated, arranged and simplified in the components that I mentioned earlier, so that they could be implemented by all quarters in an organised and strategic manner.

Your Majesty,

35. Malaysia has set a new record for the amount of foreign direct investment approved by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority or MIDA of RM216.5 billion in 2013. It is proven that this is an encouraging achievement despite the ever-challenging external environment. Based on the strong economic growth, and with Allah's permission, the inflation rate has remained low at 3.5 per cent and the unemployment rate is only about 3.1 percent.

36. It is also notable that the Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2, which began operations on May 2, is able to accommodate 45 million passengers a year.

37. Meanwhile, the Mass Rapid Transit or MRT as an Economic Enabler Project under the National Key Economic Areas, targetting 50 per cent use of public transport in the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley will be achieved.

38. Your Majesty's Government, through the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy or SCORE and the Sabah Development Corridor or SDC, will intensify development efforts for the benefit of the people in Sabah and Sarawak.

39. In the tourism sector, this year is Visit Malaysia Year. As of March 2014, we have managed to lure 7.1 million tourists, compared to 6.4 million in the corresponding period last year. This is an increase of 10 per cent.

40. In regards to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax or GST to replace the Sales and Services Tax starting from April next year, Your Majesty's Government has taken into consideration the views and opinions from all quarters.

41. At present, the Government is intensifying efforts to explain and provide greater understanding on it to all quarters. Basically, the new taxation system is very progressive and systematic and has been adopted in over two-thirds of the countries in the world. It is also aimed at enhancing national economic sustainability for the long term.

Your Majesty,

42. Overall, we are grateful because although in reality we are facing global economic uncertainty, the country's Gross Domestic Product or GDP has recorded growth of 4.7 per cent in 2013 and has continued to grow to 6.2 per cent in the first quarter this year.

43. Our per capita income has also increased by 37 per cent over the past six years and is expected to reach RM34,126 this year compared to RM24,879 in 2009. The latest news is, Malaysia is the now the world's 12th most competitive nation, leaving the 15th spot it clinched last year.

Your Majesty,

44. Come what may, Your Majesty's Government will continue working hard and stay committed to turning Malaysia into a progressive, prosperous and dynamic Islamic country, based on Maqasid Syariah with the concept of moderation or wasatiyyah.

45. At the regional level, we have been recognised for our role as a mediator of the Peace Agreement on the Bangsamoro signed between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or MILF and the Government of the Philippines on March 27, 2014, to end decades of bloody conflict.

46. Next year, Malaysia will play a more active role in the Southeast Asian region as it is our turn to take the chair of ASEAN.

47. During the recent official visit of the United States' President, we felt proud to showcase a progressive and colourful contemporary Malaysia. Barack Obama was excited and had repeatedly praised Malaysia as he saw us, among others, as a modern, progressive Islamic state. It was also mentioned how Malaysia had rapidly and dramatically developed in the transformation era.

48. At the global arena, Alhamdulillah (Praise be to Allah), the official visit to Tiongkok to celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China was a successful trip.

49. The Prime Minister of China Li Keqiang mentioned that the existing Kuala Lumpur-Beijing relationship is of a special kind and will always be a priority. In fact, the relationship between Malaysia and China has been upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

50. For the record, the total trade between Malaysia and China, which was recorded at US\$200 million in 1974, has grown to reach more than US\$106 billion in 2013, hence making Malaysia a premier destination and the largest trade partner for China in the ASEAN region.

Your Majesty,

51. Indeed, our successes and what we have today did not come easy. If not maintained and protected, they will vanish in no time.

52. That is why Your Majesty's Government will never allow the country, which was built with sweat and tears, to be destroyed by irresponsible quarters.

53. As such, in leading the Government, I, together with the Deputy Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet, will continue discharging our duties as the trusted and accountable ruling Government.

54. From time to time, Insya-Allah (God willing), we will ensure that the administration and the entire Government's machinery will continue working closely with each other and not in their own silos. That way, we will be able to continue transforming and steering the nation towards greater heights.

Your Majesty,

55. In conclusion, I, on behalf of the Government and the people, would like to express

how proud and lucky we are to be under the patronage of Your Majesty. Indeed, close ties between the King and the people signifies what a proud country is about.

56. I pray that all our prayers will be answered. I hope that Malaysia is protected from all dangers, continues to be blessed and enjoy peace and prosperity.

57. I pray that Allah will bless Your Majesties with good health and a long life while heading the country.

Ampun Tuanku Seri Paduka,

Sembah Takzim menjunjung tinggi,

Semoga karar di atas takhta,

Doa rakyat setulus hati.

Your Majesty,

This concludes my speech. Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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