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FROM gracing state functions and community gatherings to attending cultural celebrations and charity events, Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir is a Ruler who consistently connects with the people and understands their issues firsthand.

Whether greeting congregants at Friday prayers in local mosques or inspiring graduates to reach for greater heights, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan, who celebrates his 77th birthday today, always takes a keen interest in his subjects and encourages them to fulfil their potential.

As the chancellor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Tuanku Muhriz often advises graduates to follow their moral compass and emulate good values.

During the university's 52nd convocation ceremony in November, the Ruler commended its many achievements, including its current position as the 138th best university in the QS World University Rankings.

Tuanku Muhriz also advised students and university personnel not to rest on their laurels, regardless of the accolades garnered, as the university plays an important role in promoting the national identity and the empowerment of the Rukun Negara.

"No matter how much the university achieves, I hope its founding principles will be continually appreciated and embedded in your hearts. The university's establishment and history are tied to the empowerment of the national language, the appreciation of patriotic values, and the development of higher education rooted in national culture," the Ruler said.

Tuanku Muhriz added that since his appointment as chancellor, he has witnessed the university's various initiatives to improve its policies, governance, and operations.

"I urge the university's administrators to continue carrying out such initiatives and to pay particular attention to maintaining financial and administrative efficiency and integrity.

"This would help improve the accountability and productivity of administrators and increase the rakyat's faith and confidence in public institutions," the Ruler added.

Tuanku Muhriz also expressed hope that UKM would continue to produce academically successful individuals with good values, such as integrity.

"This is because real success is not merely measured by an individual's academic achievements but also by their manners, morals, character, and ethics," the Ruler said in his address.

Tuanku Muhriz is known for his ready smile and kind words, but behind this gentle demeanour is a Ruler genuinely concerned about the rakyat's betterment and instituting positive change.

Speaking at the state-level Maulidur Rasul celebrations in September, the Ruler reminded people to work together to strengthen unity and foster brotherhood for the nation's continued peace and prosperity.

Tuanku Muhriz cited Prophet Muhammad's leadership which

Advocating for quality education and healthcare



Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir inspecting the guard of honour during the state-level Merdeka Day celebration.

prioritised social justice, equality and moral integrity as an example.

"While Islam is the religion of the federation as enshrined in the Federal Constitution, equal respect must be accorded to the rights of non-Muslims too.

"Islam also emphasises ad-Din, which places importance on unity and good relations between all human beings," he said.

Always one to speak his mind, the Ruler also expressed tremendous regret and sadness over reports of child exploitation and abuse by an organisation that hid behind the cover of an Islamic welfare body.

"This behaviour is contrary to the principles that Muslims should uphold. Muslims should exemplify true Islamic values in their daily lives such as sincerity, honesty, trustworthiness, justice, unity, brotherhood, simplicity and mutual respect," he advised.

As an avid sportsman who plays squash and a music aficionado who enjoys attending recitals, the Ruler is just as passionate about nurturing budding talent in sports and the arts.

He is also equally dedicated to improving the lives of his subjects, particularly by ensuring equal access to quality healthcare for everyone.

Tuanku Muhriz's efforts in pushing for better access to quality healthcare for all members of society have earned him an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh (RCSed).

The prestigious institution's highest award was conferred on the Ruler in recognition of his untiring efforts to improve healthcare in impoverished communities and the advancement of surgery.



Tuanku Muhriz and his consort Tuanku Aishah Rohani Tengku Besar Mahmud arriving at the state-level Merdeka Day celebration held at Padang MBS in Seremban.

A member of the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur DiRaja in his younger days, Tuanku Muhriz is no stranger to social work.

When invited to local Rotary Club events, he often highlights causes that require attention from youth issues to the environment.

At the installation of the Rotary Club of Senawang in August, the Ruler urged the club, whose signature project involved supplying more than 200 cataract lenses to the B40 community of Negri Sembilan, to include eye health check-ups as part of their efforts to combat vision impairment.

"This meaningful project has been successfully implemented for five years. However, a lot more can be done for vision

impairment as surveys show 67% of the population do not have their eyes screened yearly.

"So, I would like to suggest that the club takes a further step by organising eye health check-ups. There is an urgent need to reduce serious eye illnesses.

"I'm pleased that through joint ventures of the club with local hospitals, spectacles are provided for the less fortunate members of society.

"Yet another health project undertaken by the club is the spina bifida programme which looks into spinal issues among children.

"The club organised a seminar which brought together doctors, nurses and parents to raise

awareness of these issues," he said.

Tuanku Muhriz said this initiative by the club was timely as not many NGOs look into addressing this medical condition.

The Ruler also underscored the importance of aged care as Malaysia becomes an ageing society.

The United Nations predicts that in 2030, 15.3% of Malaysians will be aged 60 years and above.

"We need to prepare now for the plight of our elderly to make their lives more meaningful. I'm very glad that the club in cooperation with the Senior Citizens Club has been distributing wheelchairs to those in need.