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Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah presenting the Ulul-Albab Special Award to Izdihar Amri Saari Al-Hafiz, who is a graduate of UniKL's Professional Huffaz Programme, at the university's 204th convocation yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

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# KING: BE THANKFUL FOR PEACE, FREEDOM

Younger generation should not be influenced by animosity and wars that can destroy nation, says Al-Sultan Abdullah

## KUALA LUMPUR

**M**ALAYSIANS should be grateful for the peace and freedom the country has today, said Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

His Majesty said the blessings of peace and freedom should not be marred by polemics that could stoke the flames of animosity, as disputes and wars would only destroy the dreams and future of a nation and communities.

"The world is dealing with a number of crises that have direct impacts on the younger generation's future. In my opinion, armed conflict, war and discord are the greatest threats to the future of the younger generation and the world.

"Since the end of World War 2, the world has never been at peace due to conflicts, disputes and new wars that erupted in various parts of the globe.

"Despite the catastrophic property destruction, the loss of millions of lives, humanitarian conflicts, and the destruction of the world's ecological system, people continue to refuse to learn from history," he said in his royal address at Universiti Kuala Lumpur's (UniKL) 204th convocation here yesterday.

Expressing sadness and con-

cern over the current crisis in Palestine, which has claimed thousands of lives, His Majesty prayed that Allah would grant protection and fortitude to the Palestinian people, as well as peace in the land of Palestine.

Drawing lessons from the plight of the Palestinians, Al-Sultan Abdullah, who is also the UniKL chancellor, said the younger generation in the country should continue to acquire knowledge because education is a powerful force capable of instilling good values and rejecting all forms of violence.

"In addition to acquiring as much knowledge as possible, the country's younger generation must be educated and nurtured with a strong sense of patriotism to always stand firm and uphold the principle of loyalty to the king and the beloved country.

"They should also be inculcated with democratic values that defend the national identity, religion, national sovereignty, and supremacy of the Constitution so that our beloved homeland is not pawned off to foreign powers."

Al-Sultan Abdullah said that as heirs of the nation, the younger generation should be the primary force in shaping the future, and they must not only excel academically, but also possess a wide range of skills as well as good character and noble personality.

His Majesty said he was pleased with UniKL's accomplishment in producing the first batch of Al-Hafiz graduates via its Huffaz Professional Programme at yesterday's convocation.

"UniKL has taken steps towards shaping the nation's future generation through a new approach in producing huffaz technologists, who integrate both memorisation of the Quran and various skills. Well done and congratulations," he said.

Al-Sultan Abdullah also presented the Ulul-Albab Special Award to Izdihar Amri Saari Al-Hafiz, who was one of the 51 graduates of UniKL's Professional Huffaz Programme.

The award, presented for the first time, was a recognition to the accomplishments of graduates from UniKL's Professional Huffaz Programme, who memorised the 30 *juzu* of the Quran and received the Malaysian Tahfiz Certificate from the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia.

Rural and Regional Development Deputy Minister Datuk Rubiah Wang and ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Ramlan Harun were in attendance.

Present were UniKL pro-chancellor and Mara chairman Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, Mara director-general Datuk Seri Azhar Abdul Manaf and UniKL chairman Datuk Seri Sh Mohmed Puzi Sh Ali.

A total of 6,039 graduates would receive their scrolls at the convocation, which was being held over eight sessions until Tuesday. **Bernama**