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Sultan-Multimedia

MINI MULTIMEDIA CORRIDOR FOR KEDAH

ALOR SETAR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Kedah today proposed a mini multimedia corridor be set up in the state in line with the development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) at the national level.

He said the state government under the leadership of Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid should give special attention to efforts by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to create MSC in keeping up with the development in Information Technology.

"I hope steps could be taken from now to set up the mini multimedia corridor so that we will not be left behind in this field," he said at the presentation of state awards and decorations in conjunction with his 69th birthday at Istana Anak Bukit, here.

Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were also present at the investiture.

He also thanked Dr Mahathir for giving special attention to development in the state.

While congratulating Sanusi for his balanced development strategy which included emphasis on human development, the Sultan hoped the Bumiputera community would not be left out from the main stream of development.

However, he was confident that the state government under Sanusi's leadership would give priority to aspects outlined in the Kedah Development Action Plan.

He also suggested that the state government provided more downstream activities in districts with high rate of poverty such as Sik, Baling, Bandar Baharu and Padang Terap.

With such economic activities, it was hoped that these districts could emerge as self growth centres, independent of other areas, he said.

The Sultan also commended the state government for its concerted efforts in upholding the Islamic teachings through the implementation of various activities aimed at restoring the glory of Islam.

Earlier in his speech, Sanusi said the industrial sector, as the driving force of the state's economy, was projected to record 12.5 per cent growth a year.

He said the state government realised that it could never eliminate poverty if the state's economic continued to depend on agriculture, thus the focus on industrial development.

In this respect, industrial areas had been set up in Kulim, Sungai Petani, Bukit Kayu Hitam and Alor Setar, he said.

He said the shift from agricultural sector to others was expected to reduce percentage of hardcore poor families to eight per cent by the year 2000.

He said excellence in education was another main target of the state where apart from giving incentives to students to achieve academic excellence, more institutions of higher learning would be set up in collaboration with the federal government such as in Baling, Kulim and Pulau Tuba, Langkawi.

He said Pulau Tuba, covering 1,900 hectares, would be gazetted as "Pulau Universiti" following the Langkawi International University of Tomorrow plan. -- BERNAMA

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