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Nod for name of varsity in Langkawi

ALOR STAR, Sun. - The proposed university to be established at Pulau Tuba in Langkawi will be known as the Langkawi International University of Tomorrow.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to the name and planning on making the university a reality was going on smoothly.

"The State Government is in the process of gazetting the island of 1,900ha into a 'university island'.

Speaking at an investiture ceremony in conjunction with the Sultan of Kedah's 69th birthday at Istana Anak Bukit today, Sanusi said courses at the university would include robotics, oceanography and tourism.

He said Kedah would also have more higher learning institutions, including the Baling and Kulim districts, with the co-operation of several universities.

"To ensure Kedah is not left behind in this multimedia world, emphasis will continue to be given on the development of the education sector," he said.

On the State Government's efforts to create a knowledgeable society, Sanusi said a programme that encouraged pupils to revise their studies at mosques had been introduced and 40,000 pupils were doing this at 64 mosques.

"Non-Muslim pupils are encouraged to do likewise at their places of worship," he added.

On the industrial sector, Sanusi said Kedah expected to record a 12.5 per cent growth yearly in view of rapid industrial development in Kulim and Gurun and also at the industrial areas in Tanah Merah, Bukit Kayu Hitam, Tikam Batu, Sungai Petani, Kuala Ketil, Bukit Selambau and Mergong.

The development of small and medium-scale industries in several parts of the State were also expected to give a boost to the sector.

"There will be an independent power project and a port in Yan while a high speed train service between Seberang Prai and Bukit Kayu Hitam is also on the drawing board," he said.

Sanusi said the State Government was encouraging capital-intensive industries to replace labour-intensive ventures as a move to prevent worker-shortage problems in the future.

He said although the industrial sector's contribution towards the State's economic growth was substantial, the State Government would continue to give emphasis to the development of the agricultural sector.

"The State Government is encouraging the development of modern and commercial agriculture to give better returns to farmers, breeders and fishermen."

On tourism, Sanusi said Kedah was proud and thankful that Langkawi was becoming a popular international tourist destination. So were Pedu Lake and Bukit Kayu Hitam.

He said Langkawi, which recorded 1.7 million arrivals in 1995, was expected to receive more visitors from China beginning next year with Chinese pilgrims using it as their transit point from Taipeh and Hong Kong to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to perform the Haj.

"Kedah will continue to take advantage of existing resources like its islands, flora and fauna, forests, hills and mountains, rivers and caves to spur economic and tourism-related activities," he added.

On reducing poverty, Sanusi said the State Government had identified land where houses would be built for the poor under a relocation programme.

A centre for korban meat distribution would come up at Paya Pahlawan in the Kubang Pasu district.

"All districts will also have an orphanage and homes for the handicapped," he added.

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