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Sultan: Set up mini MSC in Kedah

Sharanjit Singh

ALOR STAR, Sun. - The Sultan of Kedah today called on the State Government to establish a mini Multimedia Super Corridor to promote the development of information technology.

He said the State Government should start concentrating on the development of IT which is being promoted by the Government.

"I hope the State Government will start making preparations to establish a mini MSC to ensure Kedah is not left behind once the national MSC project takes off," he said, adding among factors which would make Kedah an ideal place for the establishment of the mini MSC was its strategic location.

The Sultan said this in his speech at the investiture ceremony in conjunction with his 69th birthday celebrations at Istana Anak Bukit.

The Sultanah of Kedah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and his wife Datin Seri Nila Inangda Manyam Keumala were among those present.

The Sultan also thanked the Government for giving special attention to the development of Kedah over the years.

He said the State had progressed a lot over the last five years and attributed this to the success of the Kedah Development Action Plan.

"I was told the number of hardcore poor families in the State has been reduced considerably and this is expected to drop further by the year 2000," he said.

The Sultan said the continuous industrial development in the State had opened up new employment opportunities for the people, especially those living in poverty-stricken districts like Sik, Baling, Bandar Baru and Padang Terap.

"Thousands of people living in these districts now enjoy a better lifestyle following the establishment of new industrial estates in surrounding areas.

"They travel daily to work at the industrial estates in Gurun, Bakar Arang, Tikam Batu, Prai, Kulim and Bukit Mertajam," he said.

On the development of tourism, the Sultan said greater emphasis should be placed on mainland tourist attractions while ensuring the continued development of Langkawi.

The Sultan also called on the State Government to speed up development of vacant land.

He said such land should be developed for agricultural purposes to ensure the State did not rely too much on imported foodstuff.

He said the opening of new agricultural land would also help reduce outflow of foreign exchange.

Meanwhile, 112 people were conferred awards and titles at today's investiture ceremony.

Leading the list of recipients were Sanusi, who received the Seri Setia di Raja Kedah which carries the title Datuk Seri.

Others include Sime Bank executive chairman Tunku Tan Sri Ahmad Tunku Yahya, who was conferred the Tunku Seri Indera Putera award, and Chief Secretary to the Government, Datuk Halim Ali.

Halim received the Datuk Paduka Seri Setia Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah award, which carries the title Datuk Paduka.

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