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Sultan: Be united and patient in facing hard times

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ALOR STAR, Sun. - The Sultan of Kedah today called on the people to be patient and united in facing the hard times caused by the current economic problems.

He also called on them to support initiatives and steps taken by the Government to overcome and revitalise the economy.

"The economic problem is undoubtedly going to test our patience and staying power.

"However, we must stay united and overcome this problem together," he said, adding that everyone had the responsibility to play his part towards this end.

He said various steps taken by the Government to place greater emphasis on productive sectors should also be supported.

Citing the adage that self-help was always the best kind of help, the Sultan said the people should be able to rely on themselves to overcome problems.

"This simply means that you are your own best friend especially in times of need. Outsiders will always try to break us and create chaos," he said at his 70th birthday investiture ceremony at Istana Anak Bukit near here.

Also present were the Sultanah of Kedah, Raja Muda and Raja Puan Muda, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid.

The Sultan also called on government officers to step up efforts to inform the people about the economic situation in the country.

He said women should also play their part in helping the Government overcome the economic problems.

"Now is the time for housewives to manage their finances and household incomes intelligently."

The Sultan said greater efforts should also be made to attract foreign investments and called on government departments to cut red tape.

Later, the Sultan bestowed titles on the recipients. Topping the honours list was the Raja Puan Muda of Kedah, Tunku Raudzah Sultan Hishamuddin Alam Shah.

She received the Darjah Halimi Award.

Others who received awards included chairman (foreign operations) of the Saudi-based Binladdin group, Syekh Omar Mohamed Binladdin.

He received the Datuk Paduka Seri Sultan Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah Award which carries the title Datuk Paduka.

Parliamentary secretary to the Transport Ministry Chor Chee Heung, Pas president Fadzil Noor and High Court judge K.N. Segara were among 22 people who received the Datuk Setia di-Raja Kedah award which carries the title Datuk.

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