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Sultan-Birthday

SULTAN WANTS NO BUREAUCRACY TO DRIVE AWAY THE INVESTORS

ALOR SETAR, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Kedah does not want investors already committed in the state to move elsewhere at the last minute due to a weak administrative system in the state.

All forms of bureaucracy like delays in processing development plans and the issue over Certificate of Fitness (CF) for buildings should be given proper attention, he said.

More determined efforts should be made to attract more foreign investors to the state, the Ruler said at an investiture ceremony where he conferred state honours on 923 recipients, in conjunction with his 70th birthday at Istana Anak Bukit here.

Also present at the ceremony were the Sultanah of Kedah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, also MP for Kubang Pasu, and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Earlier, pledging the state and people's loyalty, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said Kedah attracted RM4.59 billion investment last year.

In the same period, total investment pledged to the state amounted to RM14 billion, he said adding that the tourism sector attracted over two million tourists, mostly locals.

As part of efforts to attract more foreign tourists, he said posters to promote Langkawi would be erected at a point between Jeddah and Mecca, in Saudi Arabia.

Sanusi also expected the poverty rate in the state to decline to within eight per cent in 2000 against 30 per cent in 1990.

The number of the hardcore poor had also decreased from 14,150 in 1993 to 5,489 people last year. -- BERNAMA

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