

10 JUL 1999

Assembly-Johor

REJECT THOSE HARPING ON RACIAL ISSUES, SAY SULTAN

JOHOR BAHRU, July 10 (Bernama) -- The people should reject those who harp on racial and religious issues as this could create disunity in the country, the Sultan of Johor said today.

The people should instead remain united and support the policies and measures implemented by the government, he said when opening the state legislative assembly sitting, here.

They should forge a stronger bond among themselves to present a united society, in keeping with Malay phrase "bersatu teguh, bercerai roboh" (united we stand, divided we fall), he said.

The sultan said the people were indebted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had intelligently and bravely rescued the country from economic turbulence and foreign interference.

He also said that the Johor government would continue community development projects like construction and repairs of roads, mosques and libraries for the orang asli and hardcore poor.

Propagation and religious programmes would also be held to build the people's resilience.

He called on all parties to undertake the tasks entrusted to them sincerely as the success of development plans depended on a fair and efficient government and unity among the people.

Earlier, the sultan was received at Bangunan Sultan Ibrahim by the Tunku Mahkota of Johor, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Speaker Datuk Ali Hassan and other state dignitaries.

He later inspected a guard of honour mounted by the Johor Military Force.

The assembly will sit on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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