

29 JUN 2002

Assembly-Sultan

JOHOR SULTAN PRAISES DR MAHATHIR FOR REVIVING ECONOMY

JOHOR BAHRU, June 29 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Johor today praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for ably discharging his duties and for his untiring efforts in reviving the national economy.

"I congratulate the Right Honourable Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, for his efficiency, integrity and responsibility in implementing effective measures to revive the national economy," the Sultan said when opening the first meeting of the fourth session of the 10th Johor State Assembly here.

The measures taken by the Prime Minister had brought about economic recovery and the national economy was projected to grow at the rate of 3.5 per cent this year compared to 0.4 per cent last year.

Consumers and the business community were more confident with increased domestic demand, he added.

The overall domestic economy gained strength with the services sector experiencing a 4.6 per cent growth while the construction sector grew by 2.9 per cent, the Sultan of Johor said.

International reserves rose to RM124.5 billion which could finance imports over six months.

His Royal Highness urged all Malaysians to be thankful for the unity among the various races in this country as this had ensured stability and prosperity till this day.

He said for the economy to develop even further there should be continued peace and tranquility in the country.

Turning to Johor, the Sultan urged the state government to ensure continued economic recovery and aim for even higher economic growth.

"I am confident that the state government will implement economic growth measures in a more comprehensive, just and balanced way and increase productivity in all fields," he said.

The Sultan also wanted the Johor Government to focus on high technology, capital investment and high skills apart from diversifying the economy and promoting manufacturing.

In its efforts to attract more foreign investment to various sectors, the government should give priority to upgrading the Sultan Ismail Airport in Senai, developing the Johor Baharu City centre, speeding up the railway double tracking project and expanding the Port of Tanjung Pelepas.

The government should also take measures to ensure justice in society and undertake religious development programmes with a view to building the people's resilience.

Earlier on arrival at the Sultan Ibrahim Building here, the Sultan was greeted by the Tengku Mahkota of Johor Tunku Ibrahim, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and State Assembly Speaker Datuk Zainalabidin Mohamed Zin.

The Sultan inspected a guard of honour mounted by members of the Johor Military Force.

The Johor State Assembly will sit from Monday till July 9.

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