

20 JAN 2002

Kedahans

KEDAHANS' PER CAPITA INCOME REACHED RM4,137 IN 2000

ALOR SETAR, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- The per capita income of Kedahans jumped from RM2,612 in 1990 to RM4,137.5 in 2000 in line with the state's encouraging economic growth, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said today.

He said that the state's annual growth rate during the past 10 years averaged 9.6 per cent, higher than the national growth rate of 8.7 per cent.

"Due to the higher per capita income, the quality of life of Kedahans has also improved," he said in his loyalty speech at the investiture held in conjunction with the 74th birthday of the Sultan of Kedah at Istana Anak Bukit here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were present.

Syed Razak said that during the same period, the rate of poverty had been reduced from 30 per cent to 13.5 per cent with the number of hardcore poor families reduced from 23,769 to 4,363.

He said that the state government strives to further reduce the rate of poverty by constructing 4,363 units of houses by the year-end.

The state government, he said, had outlined four strategies under the Kedah Progressive Action Plan 2010 to lead Kedah to greater heights like focusing on development in the industrial, agricultural, tourism and service sectors.

Syed Razak said that focus would also be given to educational and religious development as well as boosting the state's image through the administrative aspects and the implementation of policies and law enforcement.

He said that a thrift policy would also minimise cost and maximise output.

The Menteri Besar said that according to projection under the plan, the state's GDP during the next 10 years would reach 12 to 15 per cent, chalking up to RM36,762 million in 2010.

-- BERNAMA

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