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Koh: People must adopt new mindset

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PENANG, Sat. - Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon today urged the people to adopt a new mindset to meet the challenges of globalisation and increasingly stiff competition.

"With a new mindset, we will not only be able to better face the challenges, but also to realise the potential and opportunities in this era of globalisation and Information Communications Technology," he said.

Koh said although Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent call for a change in mindset had been made primarily to Malays, all Malaysians must take the cue to do likewise.

In calling for a mindset that is "more open, flexible, innovative, creative and pro-active", Koh said emphasis would continue to be placed on human resource development from the point of knowledge, skill and entrepreneurship.

In this context, he said the State has to take a multi-pronged approach where inter-relationship and networking have to be prioritised.

"Attention must also be given to increasing investments and business through boosting infrastructure, incentive schemes and ensuring the effectiveness of the Government and financial institutions as well as good governance in both the public and private sectors."

Koh was speaking at the investiture ceremony to mark the 64th official birthday of Penang Yang di-Pertua Negeri, Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas, at the Dewan Sri Pinang here today.

Present were Abdul Rahman's wife Toh Puan Majimor Shariff, Koh's wife Puan Sri Chew Kah Peng, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Himli Yahaya and his wife, State Executive Councillors, Assemblymen, judges and other State dignitaries.

Abdul Rahman, in his speech, said while it was necessary for the people to change their mindset, they must ensure that they retain their moral values.

"No doubt, we have to change our mindset or risk being left behind, but we have to preserve our noble, moral, religious and cultural values," he said.

Abdul Rahman added that any change in mindset should also be done only with knowledge and accurate information.

He said that was why the Government was trying to develop a K-Society and a K-economy through the promotion of a "life-long learning culture".

Of a total of 1,274 people honoured, 178 received their awards at the ceremony today.

Heading the list were Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and the New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad group editor-in-chief Tan Sri Abdullah Ahmad who received the Darjah Gemilang Pangkuan Negeri which carries the title "Datuk Seri".

Four others who also received the DGPN were executive council member of the National Economic Action Council Tan Sri Dr Md Noordin Md Soviee, Universiti Teknikal Mara president and chief executive officer Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad, Hwang-DBS Securities Berhad and Hwang-DBS (Malaysia) executive chairman Datuk Hwang Sing Lue, and Chung Hwa Confucian board of directors' chairman Datuk Oon Chin Seang.

Four others received the Darjah Yang Mulia Pangkuan Negeri (DMPN), 23 the Darjah Setia Pangkuan Negeri (DSPN), 20 the Darjah Johan Negeri (DJN), four the Bintang Cermelang Negeri (BCN), 25 the Pingat Kelakuan Terpuji

(PKT), 47 the Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (PJK), 44 the Pingat Jasa Masyarakat (PJM), and five the Pingat Bakti Setia (PBS) today.

Earlier, a guard-of-honour was mounted by 106 officers and men of the Second Battalion Royal Malay Regiment led by Mejar Suhaimi Sumar, at the Esplanade.

On arrival, Abdul Rahman and his wife were greeted by Koh and his wife, State Assembly Speaker Datuk Yahaya Abdul Hamid and other State leaders.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force central band led by Kapten Zulkiffli Shafie struck up the national and State anthems on their arrival.

About 2,000 guests including award recipients and State VIPs were later feted to a tea party at the Penang International Sports Arena, instead of at the Yang di-Pertua Negeri's official residence, Seri Mutiara which is being renovated.