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Ghani-Economy

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION HUB FOR MSIA

MUAR, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- The tourism, transportation and food industries will be given a boost to ensure an economic growth rate of not less than 5.6 per cent in Johor for the 2003-2005 period.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said large investments would make Johor one of the main players in the food production and processing sector in Malaysia.

Abdul Ghani was speaking to reporters at his Aidilfitri open house in Kampung Sungai Mati near here today. He was commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the economy would continue to expand next year with several new strategies to stimulate growth.

Other projects underway include the expansion of a 10,000 hectare modern agriculture farm in Air Hitam and Kluang and the food-crop zoning project throughout Johor, Abdul Ghani said.

For tourism, he said promotions would be held locally and aboard to draw tourists to meet the three million people target for the Visit Johor Year 2003.

"We wil also development a new sector - a consolidated system that combines air, sea and land transportation - to make Malaysia a cargo logistics centre in the region," he said.

Investments in the three economic sectors in Johor would spur growth in 2003 and contribute to strengthening Malaysia's economy.

"With these large investments in Johor for the 2003 to 2005 period we can contribute to maintaining a growth rate of not less than six per cent for the period," Abdul Ghani reiterated.

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