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Sultan-security

DON'T TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED, SULTAN KEDAH TELLS PEOPLE

ALOR STAR, Jan 19 (BERNAMA) -- The people should not be complacent about existing peace as the country could be faced with various threats in future, said the Sultan of Kedah today.

He said they people could not afford to take things for granted when an issue involved national security.

"The overlapping claims on Pulau Batu Puteh should serve as a reminder of the need to be vigilant and not to treat lightly issue on regional security," he said at the presentation of state awards in conjunction with his 75th birthday at the Istana Anak Bukit, here.

The Sultan said the people should also be aware of the extremists who used religion, ideology and race to create disunity and chaos in society.

"All the comfort and peace that we enjoy today can disappear in the blink of an eye if we don't safeguard it," he said.

At the investiture, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was bestowed the "Darjah Kerabat" (DK) while Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain the "Darjah Seri Setia Diraja Kedah" (SSDK), which carries the title Datuk.

The Sultan said that if the people and the leaders could not work together, the country would expose itself to threat of being re-colonise.

"Colonisation is no longer restricted to military action but, more dangerously, economic colonisation which is difficult to predict," he said.

He was also proud of the state leadership for formulating new and aggressive approach to drive the state's economic growth.

The Sultan expressed his appreciation and thanks to Dr Mahathir's leadership for developing the state.

"I am sure that his successor will continue with existing cooperation in the development of the state and country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

IAW MZM ABG