

28 JUN 2003

Sultan-Unity

RACIAL UNITY ENSURES NATION'S PROSPERITY, SAYS JOHOR SULTAN

JOHOR BAHRU, June 28 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Johor today reminded the people that unity among the various communities has paved the way for the country's progress and prosperity.

He said the economic success enjoyed by the country so far would not have been achieved if the people were in disarray.

"Economic progress requires the nation to be always at peace and orderly," the Sultan said in his speech at the opening of the Johor State Legislative Assembly sitting here today.

His speech text was read out by the Tunku Mahkota of Johor, Tunku Ibrahim Ismail ibni Sultan Iskandar.

"I wish to remind the Johor people to support the government's efforts to develop the state's and country's economy under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," said the Sultan.

The Sultan said:"I wish to commend and thank the federal government for successfully implementing various measures to stimulate the economy."

He said this has resulted in encouraging economic growth which drew investments in the services and manufacturing sectors, enabling the nation's reserves to escalate to RM136 billion.

The Sultan also thanked Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, state leadership and security forces which have carried out their tasks well to assist in the state's development.

He called for the state government to continue formulating measures to generate Johor's economic growth by utilising resources available in the state.

"In the agriculture sector, the private sector should be encouraged to venture into food production by developing modern farms in Ayer Hitam and Kluang apart from participating in the aquaculture industry in Johor's major rivers," he said.

The Sultan of Johor called on the private sector to be willing to face challenges instead of relying on government support, like venturing into high-technology industries and new markets abroad.

His Royal Highness also urged the state government to provide more facilities and infrastructures to promote the Johor tourism industries in conjunction with the Visit Johor Year 2003.

He said special focus should be given on major socio-economic projects in the state like construction of the new Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex, Senai-Desaru highway, Senai air cargo and passenger terminal and the shipping and petrochemical centre in Tanjung Bin.

"The state government should also improve the water and power supply as well as telecommunication links in the state," he said.

He also commended state government efforts to take care of the religious, welfare and education aspects of the under-privileged and Orang Asli.

"I call on the Johor people to promptly pay their dues which have accumulated to over RM42 million as this will assist the state government to resolve shortage of funds to boost infrastructure development," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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