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Yam Tuan-Investment

TUANKU JA'AFAR WANTS GREATER EFFORTS TO ATTRACT INVESTMENTS

KUALA PILAH, July 19 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Ja'afar has urged the state government to intensify efforts to attract investments although the state's economic growth is improving.

"I believe Negeri Sembilan has unique attractions. The agriculture sector also needs to be strengthened further as we have plenty of agriculture land resources," he said.

"We should be more proactive in efforts to develop the agriculture sector and should not depend on the industrial sector alone. Diversifying the state's revenues will ensure economic stability," he said at an investiture in conjunction with his 81st birthday at Istana Besar Seri Menanti, near here, today.

He also expressed confidence that the state's tourism sector would continue to grow, especially if the state continued to organise national and international events to attract visitors.

Tuanku Ja'afar also wanted more training centres and institutions of higher learning (IPTs) to be built in the state to ensure that it could continue to produce skilled workers to meet the needs of the markets.

He praised the state's elected representatives for their work, especially in providing basic amenities, reducing poverty, and developing the education and health sectors.

"I am confident that one day the poverty rate in the state will be reduced to zero. I pray that the government's noble efforts would be successful, especially those to improve the people's well-being," he said.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad, in his loyalty speech, said the state's economic growth this year was projected at 4 to 5 percent compared to 4.2 percent last year.

In the first three months of this year, investments in the state totalled RM1.5 billion, compared to RM767 million in the same period last year, he said.

The manufacturing and agriculture sectors continued to be main engines of growth, contributing 37 and 16 percent respectively to the gross domestic product (GDP), he said.

He said the government was spurring growth in the agriculture and tourism sectors, adding that the federal government had allocated RM22.9 million for tourism promotion and development while the state had set aside RM4.1 million for similar purposes.

At the ceremony, Tuanku Ja'afar presented state awards and medals to 132 people, led by former Felde Chairman Raja Tan Sri Muhammad Alias Raja Muhammad Ali, who was conferred the Darjah Seri Utama Negeri Sembilan (SPNS), which carries the title Datuk Seri Utama.

Tuanku Ja'afar's daughter-in-law Tunku Mimi Wahida Tunku Wahman and Army Chief Jen Datuk Wira Mohd Shahrom Nordin received the Darjah Seri Paduka Tuanku Ja'afar Yang Amat Terpuji (SPTJ), which carries the title Datuk Seri.

Twenty-seven people received the Darjah Datuk Setia Negeri Sembilan (DSNS), which carries the title Datuk.

They included state executive councillors Zakaria Nordin, Norhayati Omar and T. Rajagopalu, Bahau state assemblyman See Ah Kow, Bioven Holdings Sdn Bhd chief executive Mukhriz Mahathir, Osmania Group of Companies chairman Datuk Hamidi Osman Talib, Town and Country Planning Department Director-General Abd Mutallib Jelani, and ACA Intelligence Division

Director Abdul Malek Sheikh Abdullah.

Among the 31 recipients of Darjah Datuk Paduka Tuanku Ja'afar (DPTJ), which also carries the title Datuk, were Indonesian People's Representative Assembly member H. Soetan Moehamad Taufiq Thaib SH Tuanku Muda Mahkota Alam, political secretary to the First Finance Minister, Abdul Mutalib Alias, and TV3 CEO Ahmad Farid Ridzuan.

Twenty-seven people received the Darjah Setia Negeri Sembilan (DNS), 22 the Pingat Pekerti Terpilih (PPT) and 22 the Jaksa Pendamai.

-- BERNAMA

APG YBY