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PM heads Johor Ruler's birthday honours list

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JOHOR BARU, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be conferred the Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat di-Hormati, Pangkat Pertama (DK1) by the Sultan of Johor in conjunction with the ruler's 72nd birthday tomorrow.

The award is usually bestowed on royalty, although it is occasionally bestowed on commoners who have rendered invaluable service to the Ruler and the State.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was also a recipient of the DK1.

The Sultan also conferred the Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat di-Hormati, Pangkat Kedua (DKII) on Ungku Yusoff Abd Rahman, who is the adviser of Mados Enterprise Sdn Bhd - a company which represents the business interests of the Johor royal family.

The DK1 and DKII carry the title "Datuk".

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman is also among the 469 people honoured with awards this year.

He will receive the Darjah Mahkota Johor Yang Amat Mulia, Pangkat Pertama (SPMJ) or The Most Honourable Order of the Crown of Johor, which carries the title "Datuk".

The Darjah Mahkota Johor Yang Amat Mulia, Pangkat Kedua (DPMJ), which also carries the title "Datuk", is awarded to William Smith Walker, who is the director of plantations under the Mados group.

Four others - commander of the 7th Infantry Brigade in Kluang, Brig-Jen Mohd Rozi Baharom; commandant of the Army Training Centre (Pulada) in Ulu Tiram, Colonel Mohd Perang Musa; Ladang Mados Lenggong manager, A. Ganapathy and the Sultan's son-in-law, Lt-Cdr Shaftdean Lufty Rusland (married to his daughter Tunku Muna Najiah) - were conferred the Darjah Mahkota Johor Yang Amat Mulia, Pangkat Ketiga (SMJ).

A total of 22 others received the Pingat Kerana Lama dan Baik Dalam Pekerjaan (PLP) and two the Pingat Kerana Jasa dan Lama Dalam Pekerjaan (PJP).

The Sultan also awarded the Pingat Ibrahim Sultan Pangkat Kedua (PIS II) to 379 individuals and the Pingat Ibrahim Sultan Pangkat Ketiga (PIS III) to 58 others.

The investiture ceremony will be held at Istana Besar here tomorrow morning.