

Sultan Ahmad Shah praises Pak Lah's leadership

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PEKAN: Sultan Ahmad Shah of Pahang yesterday applauded Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's leadership of the country.

The ruler was confident that the government will continue to perform well under the Prime Minister.

He believed the government was capable of administering the country and ensuring development in the face of challenges from globalisation.

"I would like to thank Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the federal government for the assistance and support given to the Pahang government.

"I am also confident that our Orang Kaya Indera Syahbandar Datuk Seri Najib Razak (the Deputy Prime Minister), will continue to assist and give his full support to the Prime Minister," he said at the investiture ceremony in con-

junction with his 76th birthday celebrations.

Abdullah, who heads the list of 915 people receiving awards, was conferred the Darjah Kerabat Sri Indera Mahkota Pahang Yang Amat Di Hormati or DK — the highest award for a commoner. He will receive the award at a special ceremony soon.

Sultan Ahmad Shah was also pleased with Najib for his contributions to the state, especially in solving water woes in Felda settlements.

He also congratulated the state government, led by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, for its "capable and responsible management".

Sultan Ahmad Shah was also confident that various problems faced by the people such as the drug menace and Mat Rempit phenomena would be solved by the current administration.

He urged the people to remain united and continue their support for the

government, particularly in overcoming social problems.

As for recipients of awards, he advised them to use the titles with pride and dignity.

Among the 105 award recipients yesterday was Cik Puan Muda Pahang Cik Julita Aishah Abdul Latif, the wife of Tengku Muda Pahang, who was conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Sri Sultan Ahmad Shah Pahang (SSAP) which carries the title Datuk Seri.

Other SSAP recipients yesterday were Chief Secretary to the government, Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan; Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shariff Omar; Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Datuk Richard Malanjum, Works Ministry director-general Datuk Wahid Omar; Customs director-general Datuk Abdul Rahman Abd Hamid; Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Rastam Mohd Isa;

RMAF deputy chief Left Jen Datuk Azizan Ariffin; Lawyer Datuk Andrew Kam Tai Yeow, Ahmad Zaki Resources Berhad deputy executive chairman Datuk Wan Zaki Wan Muda; Tenaga Nasional Berhad president/CEO Datuk Che Khalib Mohamad Noh; Celcom Malaysia Berhad CEO Datuk Mohammed Shazalli Ramly; Affin Bank Berhad managing director/ CEO Datuk Abdul Hamidy Abdul Aziz; National Sports Council board member Datuk Abdullah Hishan Mohd Hashim; and Pahang Chinese Chamber of Commerce deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Chap.

Six people were conferred the Sri Indera Mahkota Pahang (SIMP), 17 the Darjah Sultan Ahmad Shah Pahang (DSAP), one the honorary DSAP and 79 the DIMP.

Popular singer Siti Nurhaliza Tarudin was among DIMP recipients yesterday.