

Johor ruler calls on the government to fix economic woes

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JOHOR BARU, The Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar has urged the federal government to immediately look into the current problems faced by the country, especially in regard to the political and economic issues.

The state's monarch said as the sovereign ruler of Johor, he could not interfere in political matters. However, as a ruler he was nevertheless responsible for the well-being and prosperity of his state and subjects.

"I am aware and sensitive to the concerns of my subjects. The unstable political and economic situation the country is in now is a major issue which has to be dealt with immediately.

"Therefore, I urge the ruling government to deal with the problems we are facing now, among which is the deteriorating value of the ringgit," said Sultan Ibrahim in his speech during the Special Forces Regiment's 50th anniversary in Camp Iskandar, Mersing today.

Excerpts of the ruler's speech, both in Bahasa Malaysia and English, was uploaded on the popular Johor Southern Tigers football Facebook page at about 12.30pm today. As of 5pm, it had garnered more than 16,800 likes and close to 2,000 comments.

The state ruler's concern comes at a time when the Malaysian Ringgit has been struggling against the US Dollar.

Yesterday saw the ringgit fall below the RM3 mark to the Singapore dollar for the first-time as a global rout in stocks and commodities intensified in Asia.

At its peak yesterday morning, the ringgit was trading down about 1% at 3.0063 to the Singapore dollar.

Sultan Ibrahim, who is also the commander of the Special Operations Regiment, also reminded elected representatives by the people to shoulder their public responsibilities that have been entrusted to them and set aside personal interests.

"The rakyat today are a generation of smart and learned people who can dissect information they receive, so please do not take them as fools by feeding them rosy news and information to hide what is really going on," he said in his speech, urging the authorities to deal with the problems at hand immediately.

In a separate matter, Sultan Ibrahim also cautioned outsiders who did not understand Johor's history to refrain from interfering in the state's affairs.

The ruler's comment came at a time after former Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was dismissed from his Cabinet posts late last month.

The Johor-born veteran politician's sudden dismissal had caused concerns and negative sentiments among Johoreans, especially among Umno members

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