

## **Sultan Wants Political Outsiders To Stop Interfering In Johor Affairs**

MUAR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar, Thursday reminded politicians from outside Johor against interfering in the state's affairs to confuse and disunite the people.

He said the people of Johor enjoyed a comfortable and peaceful life and, as such, it was needless for outsiders to show how smart they were or attempt to teach the people on the wellbeing of the state.

"The people of Johor will not be swayed by the trickery of outsiders attempting to intimidate them with fairy tales ... perhaps these outsiders have forgotten that that time has passed.

"Previously, they often mocked that Malays forget easily but today they exhibit their forgetfulness. Previously, they regarded the opposition as arch-enemies but today they sit together with them as close friends. Previously, they said the Western media was fond of making up stories, now they regard Western media news as fact," he said.

The sultan spoke at the opening of the Bukit Kepong Emergency Gallery in Bukit Kepong here. Also present were the Permaisuri Johor, Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah, and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Sultan Ibrahim advised these outsiders to cease being busybodies and put their own house in order.

He said he had been educated since childhood to take care of Johor and he knew what was best for the state and would not neglect his subjects.

"The success (of Johor) is due to the good relationship between me and the present menteri besar," he said.

The Sultan said if it came to the stage where he was incapable of ruling the state, he would hand over the reins to his son.

"I will no longer interfere or criticise the new Sultan. You (people) will have to accept the new Ruler and abide by his commands. So long as I am not packed off to an old folks home," he said.

Sultan Ibrahim welcomed the government's effort to establish the gallery as a historic landmark and a reminder for future generations about the struggles and sacrifices of the security forces.

"The trust placed by the people and the government in the Royal Malaysia Police force is at the highest level and they (the security forces) are always respected.

"They are regarded as the backbone of the peace in the country," he said.

The Sultan reminded all police officers and personnel to continue to serve with dedication, discipline, honesty and trust to maintain peace in the country.

The double-storey Bukit Kepong Emergency Gallery, which cost RM11.5 million to build, was completed at the end of last year.

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