



Great work of art: Sultan Ibrahim looking at his picture presented by Johor Baru Tiong Hua Association during the association's dinner. Looking on is MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek (left).

Striking a balance

Johor ruler urges all communities to be united to build state's economy

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JOHOR BARU: The Sultan of Johor has called on the Chinese and non-Chinese community to be united and work together to build the state's economy.

Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar said the Chinese should have partnership with other races to strike a balance and strengthen ties within the community.

"There is no doubt that the Chinese are a strong force in the local business sector and I want other races to have joint venture with the Chinese.

"However, the Chinese must be willing to share their economic knowledge and at the same time, other races should learn from their

counterparts and not just be a proxy or sleeping partners," he said in his decree when attending the Johor Baru Tiong-Hua Association charity dinner at The Zone Hotel here recently.

Sultan Ibrahim added that he also wanted better relationship between races and cultures in Johor.

"The inter-racial ties in Johor have been strong for the past 150 years under the rule of my forefathers so why should that change now?" he said.

Besides that, the ruler told the Chinese community leaders to come up with more ways to maintain harmony among the local people in order for Johor to develop.

"It is important that the younger generation understand and cherish our nation's history but do not

bring up sensitive issues as we have to work together to ensure unity for the nation to progress as a whole," he added.

Meanwhile, the association's president Lim Ik Kim thanked the Sultan for his presence and assured the ruler of the loyalty from the Johor Chinese community.

"The relationship between the Johor Chinese community and the royal family is still going strong because Sultan Ibrahim and his ancestors had always been caring towards the community," said Lim.

During the dinner, a birthday cake was presented to Sultan Ibrahim in conjunction with his upcoming birthday celebration on Nov 22.

He also handed over mock cheques to six charity bodies such as The Spastic Children's

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—SULTAN IBRAHIM

Association Johor, Johor Area Rehabilitation, Johor Baru Alzheimer's Disease Support Association (JOBADA), National Stroke Association Malaysia Johor Baru Chapter, Befrienders Johor Baru and Malaysian Red Crescent Community Service.