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Sultan Abdullah conferring the Darjah Kebesaran Panglima Jasa Negara which carries the title 'Datuk' on Abd Latif during the investiture ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's official birthday yesterday. – Bernama photo

## King's spontaneous action touches award recipient

**KUALA LUMPUR:** When Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah spontaneously left the royal dais to confer the award to Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, His Majesty's action really touched and overwhelmed the latter.

Abd Latif, when met by reporters after the investiture ceremony of federal awards and honours at the Istana Negara yesterday, said he never expected His Majesty to do so after seeing him moving about with help of a walking stick

following injuries sustained 10 years ago while on duty.

"I feel touched and overwhelmed. Perhaps the Yang di-Pertuan Agong found that it would be difficult for me to climb (the steps) as I am using the walking stick.

"I was so surprised. His Majesty gave me the signal (not to climb the steps) and he said "It's okay, I will walk down", said Abd Latif, who described His Majesty's action as a tribute from a noble-hearted king to the people who were trying to contribute to the nation. – Bernama