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Part of profits to help mosques in China

ALOR STAR, Tues. - The State Government will contribute 30 per cent of the profits from the two proposed floating Chinese restaurants to be opened in the State to mosques in Beijing, China.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid said the contributions would be extended to mosques in other parts of China too if the two restaurants made good profits.

"There are 70 million Muslims in China and many mosques there but some of these mosques are in very poor state.

"We are opening two Chinese restaurants in the replica of the boat used by the famous Chinese seafarer, Admiral Cheng Ho, here and in Langkawi and 30 per cent of the profits will be contributed to the mosques in Beijing," he said at a meeting with mosque officials at Masjid Al-Bukhary in Pantai Johor near here.

The two floating restaurants, to be named "Laksamana Cheng Ho-Razak" after the admiral's Muslim name, will use the services of Muslim cooks from China.

Chinese Muslim leaders from the China Islamic Association had agreed to send as many cooks as possible when Sanusi met them during a visit to China last December.

Sanusi said five leaders from the association would be in Kedah to break fast with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Kepala Batas mosque on Thursday.

"They will then proceed to Langkawi which they plan to make a transit point for Chinese pilgrims en route to Mecca to perform their haj.

"The group will leave for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to discuss a possible change of transit point for pilgrims from China to Langkawi."

Chinese pilgrims faced several difficulties, especially in getting halal food, when they made their stop-over in Taiwan en route to Jeddah in the past.

The Menteri Besar also urged mosque officials to support the State Government's "getting closer to the mosque" programme as it was the answer to counter social ills.

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