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RM100 MILLION EXPECTED FROM TOURISTS DURING COMMONWEALTH GAMES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia expects to earn over RM100 million from tourists during the Commonwealth Games here next month, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today.

The figure was based on the 60,000 to 70,000 tourists expected to visit Malaysia during the games from Sept 11 to 21 with each visitor spending an average of RM1,562, he said.

This was only 8 per cent of the total projected revenue of RM12.8 billion from the tourism sector this year, he told a media conference on Malaysia Fest '98, here.

He said the games would also have positive long-term effects because they would help introduce the country to foreigners.

The ministry had spent RM90 million this year on tourism promotion, he added.

He said the Malaysia Fest '98, a showcase of Malaysia's cultures and arts, would be held from Sept 12 to 26 coincide with the games. It would be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Merdeka Square, here, on Sept 13.

-- BERNAMA

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