

28 JAN 1998

New Year (roundup)

JOYOUS CHINESE NEW YEAR AS ALWAYS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- The Chinese community today ushered in the Year of the Tiger with seemingly no less joys and festivities compared to in the past.

As usual, they held open houses to allow friends to share the Chinese New Year with them.

This year offers double celebration for Malaysians with the Muslims' Hari Raya Puasa expected to be either tomorrow -- the second day of the Chinese New Year -- or the next day.

Malaysians are enjoying longer holidays, almost a week, with the double celebration while city dwellers here and in Labuan enjoy anotherday extra, the Federal Territory Day which falls on Feb 1.

This morning, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visited open houses held by the MCA and Gerakan.

In PULAU PINANG, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir attended the open house by Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon at Dewan Sri Pinang.

Also present were state legislative assembly speaker Datuk Yahya Abdul Hamid, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad and several state executive councillors.

In IPOH, Chinese New Year open houses will be held tomorrow with the Perak Chinese Assembly Hall's at No 35-37, third floor, Jalan Tun Sambathan.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik will hold open house on Saturday at Dewan Ku Tien, Air Tawar.

In KUANTAN and KUCHING, heavy downpour this morning did not dampen the festive mood while in MELAKA, shopping centres remained open to serve their Muslim patrons who were in late minute shopping.

Among the leaders in Melaka, only State Executive Councillor Datuk Poh Ah Tiam held open house today at his Taman Melaka Baru residence.

Melaka MCA chief Datuk Gan Boon Leong will hold open house on Saturday at his residence in Jalan Kubu.

Gerakan chairman Datuk Chua Peng Song will hold open house the same day in Bukit Baru.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan On will hold his open house on Feb 7 at Dewan Hang Kasturi, Selandar.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, open house was held by State Environment, Health and Consumer Affairs Committee Chairman Wong Foon Meng.

In SABAH, Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee will hold his open house tomorrow. --BERNAMA

TM ABG