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Minister: New steps will not affect tourism

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The new measures which have been announced by the Government to revive the economy will not adversely affect the tourism industry, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said here today.

He said the sector need not worry about the matter as the measures were taken solely to ensure that the ringgit was not traded.

Sabbaruddin was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's announcement of Bank Negara's freeze on off-shore trading of the ringgit and the establishment of a fixed exchange rate.

Sabbaruddin was speaking to reporters after launching the Malaysia Fest food festival at the Regent, Kuala Lumpur.

Earlier, he called on the hotel industry to take the opportunity of the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games to "promote Malaysia not only as a resort destination, but as a gourmet destination" as well.

Sabbaruddin added that Games offered a great opportunity for Malaysia to showcase her multi-ethnic cuisine to the rest of the world.

"Malaysian food tastes good, is of good quality and is affordable."

He said the Regent's Malaysia Fest was an example other hotels should emulate.

The hotel's food festival will last till the end of the month.

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