

30 AUG 1998

12 NATIONS FOR 1998 COMMONWEALTH FESTIVAL

LANGKAWI, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Twelve countries have confirmed their participation in the 1998 Commonwealth Cultural Festival to be held simultaneously with the Malaysia Festival in Kuala Lumpur from Sept 12 to 26.

Director general of the Tourism Promotion Board Malaysia (LPPM) Datuk Dr Arshad Hashim said the festival was expected to be more grand and interesting as it was being held during the world's second largest sporting event, the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

The festival was being held to showcase the Malaysian as well as the Commonwealth countries' culture and art, he said when met after officiating the Third Langkawi Fishing Safari 1998, here yesterday.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially open both festivals at the Merdeka Square in Kuala Lumpur on Sept 13.

Dr Arshad said all states, including Kedah, had agreed to send their respective cultural groups to perform at hotels, the Kuala Lumpur Central Market and several other locations within Kuala Lumpur.

Between 60,000 and 70,000 tourists are expected to visit Malaysia during the Commonwealth Games.

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