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Hamid-Maal Hijrah

"UNITY AMONG THE UMMAH BRINGS SUCCESS", MAAL HIJRAH THEME

KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 (Bernama) -- "Unity Among the Ummah Brings Success" is the theme for this year's Maal Hijrah celebration to be held on Saturday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said today the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, was scheduled to launch the national-level celebration at Stadium Putra Bukit Jalil.

Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, are expected to be present.

Dr Abdul Hamid told reporters here that the theme was chosen in view of the importance of unity in the country to continue with the development agenda for the prosperity of the society.

This year's celebration was expected to be merry like previous years although the country still experienced an economic slowdown, he said.

A total of 10,000 to 12,000 people comprising employees from the government, private sector and statutory bodies, undergraduates and members of the public from around the Klang Valley are expected to participate in the assembly during which the Tokoh Maal Hijrah would be announced.

The award is the highest honour bestowed on a Muslim leader for his services in developing and promoting Islam in the country.

The winner will receive RM30,000 cash from the Malaysian government, RM20,000 from Yayasan Ubaidi, a plaque, medal and certificate.

Various events will be held in conjunction with the celebration. They include the reading of the yasin and tahlil at Masjid Negara on Friday and three-day exhibition and international conference at the Malaysian Islamic Arts Museum from Thursday.

Earlier, Dr Abdul Hamid received business zakat amounting to RM42,762 from Maybank Berhad and RM74,000 from RHB Bank Berhad on behalf of the Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council.

Maybank was represented by its Islamic Banking Division head, Nik Najib Husin, and RHB Bank by its Islamic Banking Department senior general manager, Raja Shahrul Nizar Raja Abdul Aziz.

-- BERNAMA

DRW JK