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Bayan bird is Penang Sukma 2000 mascot

PENANG, Tues. - It's official. The Bayan bird will be the mascot for Sukma 2000 to be hosted by Penang.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon revealed the mascot for the first time to the public during his four-minute tele-conferencing with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night.

The tele-conferencing which took place at the Telekom Malaysia Bhd interchange in Jalan Perak on Penang island, was shown on television and giant screens at the Esplanade where 10,000 Penang residents had gathered.

The nationwide tele-conferencing between Dr Mahathir and Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers was held in conjunction with the National Day celebrations.

Penang will host Sukma 2000 next May.

Penang residents have strong links with the Bayan bird, so much so that the Bayan Lepas and Bayan Baru townships were named after it.

One will have to read Hikayat Bayan Budiman to find out more about the bird.

Koh said the Bayan bird was chosen for its distinctiveness compared with other birds.

"It is also a compliment to Penang's new satellite town, Bayan Baru, and old town Bayan Lepas."

Also present were Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shariff Omar, Koh's wife Puan Sri Chui Kah Peng, State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Yahaya Hamid and State Exco members.

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