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Abdullah-Visa

EXTRA CONSULAR OFFICES IN CHINA, SAYS DPM

PETALING JAYA, May 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will open more consular offices in China for issuance of visas to Chinese intending to visit the country, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

These offices would be located in cities with high demand for Malaysian visas, said Abdullah, who is also Home Minister.

Immigration Department Director-General Datuk Aseh Che Mat visited China recently to earmark such places, he said.

Presently Chinese can apply for Malaysian visas at the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing and Malaysian consulates in Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

"We have no problem in giving visas to Chinese tourists to enter Malaysia through the KLIA, Langkawi, Johor Baharu or any other entry points," he said.

Abdullah told reporters this after launching the book "A New Deal For Asia" written by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah said as the practice in China was to require outwardbound Chinese to have visas issued well in advance, it would be a boon to have more consular offices in that country.

Replying to another question, Abdullah said the decision to have the extra consular offices only applied to China.

He said Chinese visitors entering Malaysia through a third country, say Indonesia, would be given visas at Malaysian entry points.

On the 25th anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic ties, Abdullah said Malaysia was pleased that the long-established and cordial ties have benefited both sides.

-- BERNAMA

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