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Kadir-Tourists

MALAYSIA SEES 30 PERCENT JUMP IN TOURIST ARRIVALS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- Tourist arrivals in Malaysia is expected to rise by 30 percent in the second half of this year, said Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

He said the year-end holiday season and various tourism activities planned such as the Formula One motorcar race at the Sepang F1 Circuit from Oct 15 to 17 were expected to contribute to the increase.

"The number of tourist arrivals in the first half of this year was already 26 percent higher than in the same period of last year," he said after opening a KL International Airport limousine service seminar here today.

Tourist arrivals in Malaysia between January and June this year was 3.1 million against 2.5 million in the same period of 1998.

Abdul Kadir also proposed that tourism service providers adopt the culture of placing a hand on their chest as a gesture of welcoming tourists.

He said Airport Limo (M) Sdn Bhd and Subang Sheraton Hotel have agreed to practice the gesture.

More than 150 limousine and taxi drivers attended the seminar, organised by Airport Limo and Subang Sheraton Hotel.

Abdul Kadir also presented 10 limousine drivers with commendation letters and RM200 cash each for their honesty.

Airport Limo drivers also signed a giant postcard with the words "Jurupandu Ekonomi Negara" (pilot of the national economy) which would be presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a show of support for the government's national economic recovery efforts.

-- BERNAMA

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