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Kadir-Fair

MASS WEDDING TO MARK START OF MALAYSIA FAIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- A mass wedding event involving couples of the various races will mark the start of the 13th Malaysia Fair at the Bukit Jalil sports complex here on Sept 11.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would officiate at the mass wedding, the first of its kind to be held here.

He said the couples, coming from the various states in the country, would be feted by state cultural troupes and local artistes with the event to come to a close with the cutting of the "pulut kuning" wedding cake.

"Some of the couples are really getting married while some others are there in a make-believe for the event," he told a press conference on the Sept 11-25 Malaysia Fair here today.

Abdul Kadir said the normally two-week long Malaysia Fair would be held for one month from next year and expanded throughout the country.

"We want tourists in various parts of the country to participate as well in the Malaysia Fair activities," he said.

Among the activities planned for the Malaysia Fair are arts and cultural shows, cooking and food sales.

Some 20 hotels here will also be participating in this year's fair.

Abdul Kadir said at the opening of the Malaysia Fair, Dr Mahathir would also launch the domestic tourism campaign which would run until December 2000.

He said efforts were also being pursued to get hotel operators in the country to offer domestic tourists lower room rates compared to rates given to foreign tourists.

He said the Ministry had also requested all state governments to set up camping parks equipped with the basic necessities in order to further promote domestic tourism.

-- BERNAMA

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