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Abdullah-Millennium

NEW MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS TO START IN SEPTEMBER

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will celebrate the advent of the new millennium on a grand scale with various programmes aimed at promoting the tourism industry.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the celebration, called "Malaysia's Centennial Into The new Millennium", would be held for two years from September this year to August 2001.

"It is to recall Malaysia's success in the last 100 years and to give a true picture of Malaysia's development today," he told a media conference after chairing the inaugural meeting of the celebrations committee, here.

The main objective of the programme was to raise awareness of and love for one's own country among Malaysians and also to draw the attention of the world community to the achievements of the Malaysian race, he said.

It was also to inculcate the tourism culture among Malaysians to enjoy the beauty of their own country and to lure the world community to visit Malaysia and thus step up the nation's tourism industry.

Abdullah said the government would also use the opportunity to organise visits before and after the international-class events to introduce Malaysia to the visitors.

All events under the "Malaysia's Centennial into the New Millennium" programme would be coordinated by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry.

Meanwhile, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the celebration would be launched on a grand scale by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium on the night of Aug 30.

There would also be simultaneous launches in all the states by the respective menteris besar and chief ministers via teleconferencing with Dr Mahathir with cross over telecast by Radio Televisyen Malaysia.

He said Dr Mahathir would also put a special message for future generations in a time capsule which would only be opened on Aug 30, 2099.

He said the programmes already planned for this year included the two-week Malaysia Fest starting on Sept 11 and culminating with the Colours of Malaysia Parade on Sept 25.

He said there was no fixed allocation for the whole programme as many of the events had yet to be arranged.

-- BERNAMA

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