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Malacca wants to use 'Taming Sari' to draw tourists

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Malacca Government will ask the Perak royal household to loan the "Keris Taming Sari" for public display.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam said the State Museum Corporation would meet with the Perak authorities to obtain permission to use the ancient weapon "to attract local and foreign tourists to Malacca".

The weapon was used by the legendary Malay warrior Hang Tuah in numerous battles in the 15th century.

The artefact is believed to be kept at Istana Iskandariah in Bukit Chandan, Kuala Kangsar.

"We hope to display it during the fourth leg of the Malacca Tourism Festival which will be held at Padang Pahlawan in Bandar Hilir by year's end," he said after briefing 34 ambassadors from Asia, Europe and South America on the State's tourism promotions, at Hotel Istana today.

Mohamed Ali said the tales about Hang Tuah and his mystical weapon during the era of the Malacca sultanate could draw students and tourists to Malacca.

Besides this, there were also historical sites and remnants from the colonial era which could provide a better understanding of the country's history.

"If you visit Malaysia without visiting Malacca, you will not be able to understand the country's history," he said.

Earlier, Mohamed Ali said the State Government would take the ambassadors and their wives to Malacca soon, to visit the many historical sites.

The entourage will also experience the State's culture and traditions besides sporting and health activities.

"Hopefully, when they return to their respective countries, they will spread the word to their people about the many attractions here and encourage more of their nationals to visit Malacca."

He added that the State Government would also publish books for distribution to foreigners and local travel agencies, to highlight the State's attractions and also its similarities with other developing countries which were previously under colonial rule.

The six-day festival at Persiaran KLCC which was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night, will also be held in Singapore and Pekan Baru.

A total of 82 tourism establishments are participating in the event which is organised by the Malacca Government and the private sector. The New Straits Times is the official newspaper.

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