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Bazaar

PEKAN RABU BAZAAR TO GET FACE-LIFT

ALOR SETAR, June 30 (Bernama) -- Pekan Rabu, a Malay bazaar and a must-visit landmark in the state capital for the past 37 years, will get a face-lift to give it a new image in keeping with the time, said Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.

Several projects are in the pipeline to ensure Pekan Rabu remained a vibrant "Malay supermarket" in the new millennium and beyond.

"It needs to be transformed from a bazaar steeped in the traditional way of doing business to modern trading," he told reporters after opening the annual general meeting of the Pekan Rabu Cooperative here today.

For a start towards this end, he said, Pekan Rabu traders have been instructed to extend their business hours to 9 pm from 7 pm now and organise periodic sales carnivals, among other things.

In the long-term, the state government planned to take over the complex from Mara and renovate the section unoccupied for business into a budget hotel, he said.

The state government would make Pekan Rabu, which started as a breeding ground for Malay traders, to reach the standard of famous supermarkets, Syed Razak said.

Trips to well-known supermarkets have been arranged for Pekan Rabu traders to expose them to the nitty-gritty of large-scale trading, he said.

Pekan Rabu currently houses 240 Malay traders selling apparels, medicines, fruits and traditional cakes, among other merchandise.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was once a trader there.

Syed Razak added that aggressive promotion to make Pekan Rabu a key tourist attraction was beginning to bear results going by the increasing number of tourists stopping by there.

-- BERNAMA

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