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Chong-Tourism

ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO WOO PENINSULAR M'SIANS, S'WAKIANS TO SABAH

KOTA KINABALU, April 5 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Tourism Promotion Corporation (STPC) will go all out to woo Malaysians from peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak to visit Sabah this year.

Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said today that under a three-year plan, the STPC would aggressively market the state to visitors, particularly those from the Klang Valley.

There was a need to attract visitors from these parts of the country as there were Malaysians who were not aware of the uniqueness of Sabah, he told reporters after opening the Gastro 2001 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology (MSGH), here.

He denied that the air fare to Sabah was the reason domestic tourists from the peninsula were discouraged from visiting the state.

"If they can organise themselves by taking advantage of the tour packages to Sabah, they would be able to travel cheaply," said Chong, who is also state Tourism Development, Environment, Science and Technology Minister.

Citing the example of today's conference, Chong said that out of 600 delegates, almost half were from peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak.

On the the Third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday, Chong said the state government was pleased that the federal government was focusing its attention on helping bumiputera minorities in the state, especially those from the rural areas.

"The federal government has been giving assurance to the state government before the tabling of the Outline Perspective Plan that special attention would be given to us," he said.

He said the state government would help the federal government in any way it could to ensure that the 10-year plan would materialise.

-- BERNAMA

HAK JK