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Colours of Malaysia to woo tourists

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The "Colours of Malaysia Month" to be launched on May 26 as the biggest tourism event this year, is expected to attract 100,000 local and foreign tourists.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the event was being organised for the third time, and will end on June 24.

"The festival will portray the richness, beauty, customs and cultures of the multi-racial population in Malaysia through activities such as arts and craft, culture, food and clothes," he said.

The event will be launched at Dataran Merdeka by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will also be present.

The highlight will be a multi-racial procession featuring colourful performances, travelling 1.5km from Jalan Raja Laut to Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Some 5,100 people - compared to 4,000 participants in previous years - will participate in the parade themed Malaysian Legends.

To add to the merriment, local artistes will hold performances on three stages erected opposite City Hall, Mara building and Bangunan G.S. Gill.

The ministry has invited 1,500 guests including travel agency representatives and foreign media to cover the event.

"We hope with foreign media coverage, the world will see Malaysia as a carnival country with different races living together in harmony," said Abdul Kadir.

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