

22 JAN 2001

Ng-Open House

"MALAYSIA OPEN HOUSE" IN PENANG FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Spurred by the success of the "Malaysia Open House" held here on Jan 6 in conjunction with the recent Hari Raya festival, the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry will hold another open house but for the Chinese New Year in Penang.

Its deputy minister, Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said the open house in Penang would adopt a different concept where it would be more carnival or street party in atmosphere.

It would be held along Jalan Cannon, Lebuhraya Pantai and Lebuh Armenian on Feb 4 between 5pm and 11pm with the splendid display of lion dances by a World Lion Dance Competition winner, she told a news conference at her office, here today.

Dr Ng said the open house would provide foreign tourists the opportunity to experience a peaceful and harmonious society of Malaysia.

She said the event which would also be hosted by Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon was expected to attract over 20,000 tourists.

She said some 2,500 of them would also be feted to a free reception by the ministry while others would have to get food and drink coupons for the various stalls set up and managed by the local tourism authorities, offering "laksa Penang", "popia", "pasembor" and "ais kacang istimewa".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and cabinet ministers will be the guests of honour.

On another development, Dr Ng said the Immigration Department would provide two special lanes for the convenience of some 12,000 Chinese tourists, arriving on 40 chartered flights from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and China in conjunction with the Chinese New Year.

"Many of them will be staying in Malaysia for at least four nights and we hope all those involved in the tourism industry such as immigration and customs personnel, hotel operators, taxi drivers and souvenir shops to work together in providing the best service," she said.

-- BERNAMA

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