

04 FEB 2001

Koh-Open House

MALAYSIA OPEN HOUSE PROVES RACIAL UNITY IN M'SIA, SAYS DR KOH

PENANG, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- The Malaysia Open House in conjunction with the national-level Chinese New Year celebrations being held here tonight bears testimony to the strong racial unity prevalent in the country.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry-hosted celebrations clearly showed that Chinese New Year was celebrated by Malaysians from various races as it was one of the main festive celebrations in the country.

He said it became even more meaningful when the Federal Government chose Penang as the hosts for the national-level celebrations being held for the first time along a road with historical significance to the Malays, Chinese and Indians.

Lebuh Armenian/Lebuh Cannon, the venue for the celebrations, was a special place as it housed the state's oldest mosque, a Chinese and a Hindu temple, he said when launching the celebrations.

Dr Koh said the proximity of the mosque and temples clearly showed to the international community that Malaysia had a unique society living in peace and harmony despite the diverse religion and cultures.

He urged the people to preserve the prevailing racial harmony and unity that had been nurtured all this years.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, cabinet ministers and thousands of foreign tourists are attending the celebrations held in the form of "street party".

Lion and dragon dance as well as cultural performances of the various races added colour to the occasion.

-- BERNAMA

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