

19 DEC 2001

Kadir-Open house

SATURDAY'S JB OPEN HOUSE SET TO BE NATION'S BIGGEST RAYA BASH EVER

JOHOR BAHRU, Dec 19 (Bernama) -- The national Aidilfitri open house planned here on Saturday is set to be the nation's biggest hari raya bash with the organisers even expecting guests from nearby Singapore.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the Idilfitri open house, the first such national-level event to be hosted by this city and jointly organised by his ministry and the Johor state government, will be from 10 am to 4 pm.

At a news conference here today Abdul Kadir extended invitation to Malaysians and Singaporeans alike to join the merry-making.

"The ministry, through the print and electronic media in Singapore has invited citizens of the republic to join Malaysians at the national open house because it is our culture not to leave out our neighbours," he said.

He said Saturday's open house, to be held at the city square here, would be most opportune for multi-racial Malaysians to consolidate co-existence among them.

Guests would be served with traditional dishes and entertained by local and international artistes, he said.

Abdul Kadir confirmed that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, the Sultan of Johor, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would be attending.

According to Abdul Kadir, VIP guests from across the Causeway who have confirmed attendance are Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and seven cabinet ministers.

Abdul Kadir said Singaporeans intending to attend the open house can come by train from Tanjung Pagar and disembark at the Johor Baharu railway station where free buses would take them to the city square here.

The organisers would also provide free bus service from Newton Circus in Singapore to the city square, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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