

28/12/2001

`Big Party' needs sponsors

Koh Lay Chin

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.- Organisers for the Pancawarna Malaysia - Malaysians' Open House are calling for more sponsors and support from the public to make the event a success.

The massive celebration of the New Year, Hari Raya and Christmas will be held on Monday at Dataran Merdeka and people are urged to bring their own food to be shared among themselves - just like a big "pot-luck" party.

Festival treasurer Nazim Johan said the event - the first of its kind - would be organised by the people for the people.

"It is also a reflection of the Malaysian style, where leaders are accessible to the people," he said.

Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas) is supporting the event by giving a 40-foot container of rice, as well as other food.

Persatuan Restoran Muslim Malaysia (Presma) will provide packets of nasi beriani and more than 100,000 glasses of teh tarik.

"There will also be roti jala, lemang, nasi lemak, soto and other food to savour. We hope the public will come in full force," he said.

The Blue Mosque Charity Network will organise a fundraiser for the event by selling RM50,000 worth of cards before the event.

If more funds were needed, Nazim said, the charity network would sell more cards at the festival.

"Response has been good, but it can be better. We hope all leaders will accept our invitation to the event," he said.

Set to attract 100,000 people, the event will also see Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Cabinet Ministers attending the picnic-style festival that will be held from 3pm until the early hours of the next morning.

The festival will also see performances by local artistes, a karaoke competition, traditional dances such as the lion dance and bhangra dance, and poetry recitals.

Entrepreneurs interested in taking up the stalls can call the secretariat at 03-22848812 or fax 03-22848852.

* laych@nstp.com.my

(END)