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100,000 turnout is expected at national Hari Raya Open house

JOHOR BARU, Fri. - The stage is set for the national Hari Raya Open House at the Dataran Bandaraya here tomorrow.

Johor Tourism Department director Mohd Jaffar Awang said everything was in place for the big bash, except for the one thing beyond their control - the weather.

"But come rain or shine, the party will go on," he said.

A crowd of 100,000 is expected to turn up for the open house beginning at 10am.

Jaffar said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would be the first VIP to arrive at 1.05pm, followed by the delegation from Singapore led by their Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to arrive at 1.15pm, and Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and the Sultan of Johor at 1.30pm.

An array of stars, including popular local artistes Ah Niu, Jamal Abdillah and Mas Idayu, will be performing.

Others include Singapore Mediacorp TV artiste Chen Hanwei and Taiwanese superstar Zhang Di.

Chefs from 13 major hotels here are working overtime as they prepare for the spread tomorrow.

In line with the Government's call for day-trippers from Singapore to put up a night here after the midnight sale to be held on the same day, The Puteri Pan Pacific Hotel has come up with a special festive accommodation rate.

Public relations manager Maureen D'Cruz said the hotel was introducing a two-day, one-night stay from RM178 nett for two inclusive of breakfast.

The Hari Raya Open House, which is organised by the State Government and co-organised by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry, will also have shuttle buses from the Larkin and Johor Baru City Council stadiums to transport the public to the Dataran.

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