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Sarawak-Celebrations

TYT'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS TO COINCIDE WITH MERDEKA DAY BASH

KUCHING, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- The gazetted official birthday of the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak has been changed from Sept 8 to Sept 15 to coincide with the closing ceremony of the national-level Merdeka month celebrations the following day.

Abdullah Jamil, director of general administration at the Chief Minister's Department, said the state government wished to combine the two celebrations as Sibul had been confirmed as the venue for both events.

"The state government is staging the double celebrations jointly with the federal government which will culminate with the closing ceremony of the 44th Merdeka Day bash," he told Bernama.

The Yang di-Petuan Agong, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, is expected to officiate at the closing ceremony on Sept 16 with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also being present.

Abdullah said the change of date for the official birthday of Tun Abang Mohd Salahuddin Abang Barieng only applied for this year and any future amendments would be decided by the state cabinet.

Yesterday, the department issued a statement saying the official birthday would be on Sept 15 which had been declared a public holiday, and that Sept 8 would not be a holiday.

Meanwhile, a civil servant in Sibul, Joshua Subeng, said the double celebrations would definitely boost Sibul's image as a town on its way to becoming a city.

"In view of the coming celebrations, our road system has improved and the town is slowly turning into a 'garden city' with instant trees and plants sprouting all over the places," he said.

However, he hoped that efforts by the local council to beautify and spruce up the town in preparation for the double celebrations would be sustained and not restricted to this occasion.

-- BERNAMA

CJ SK