

26 DEC 2002

Police-Christmas

900 POLICE PERSONNEL DEPLOYED FOR CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

MELAKA, Dec 26 (Bernama) -- About 900 police personnel of various ranks and from different branches will be deployed to ensure the national level Christmas open house celebration goes smoothly at the Hang Tuah Mall, on Saturday.

Melaka Central District Police Chief ACP Mohamad Salim Abas said personnel from Jasin and Alor Gajah district police headquarters, and his department would begin their duty tonight, once the roads are closed for the preparation and rehearsal tomorrow evening.

"At any one time, thousands of vehicles are expected to enter Melaka town this Saturday and the public are advised to follow instructions from the personnel on duty," he said during a media conference to close several major roads for the function.

Roads would be closed in three stages, the first stage at 12 midnight today, which starts from Hang Tuah Bridge. This is to construct the stage for the function.

Motorists would be diverted through Jalan Kampung Hulu to Jalan Pantai and exit through Melaka Raya or Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock.

The second stage would start at 3pm tomorrow -- affecting Jalan Tun Mamat, Ong Kim Wee and Jalan Ong Kee Hoon, for the full rehearsal, he said.

Mohamad Salim said the third stage would start at 3pm on Saturday, that involves Jalan Munshi Abdullah, Jalan Temenggung and Jalan Tengker.

All the roads would be reopened at 12am once the event is over.

Visitors are advised to use public transport and those driving could park their vehicles at Tesco, Sekolah Menengah Pay Fong, Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina Pay Teck, Kampung Morten, Plaza Hang Tuah, Kampung Jawa, Complex Munshi Abdullah and near Graha Maju Building.

About 150,000 people are expected to converge at the special open house which would begin at 6pm.

It would be graced by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalulail and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Yang Dipertua Negeri Melaka Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin and Toh Puan Marfuza Sheikh Osman, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, Cultural Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir would also be present.

-- BERNAMA

SBS VP