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House-Open

BORDER GATES WILL STAY OPEN FOR HARI RAYA EVENT ON DEC 21

ALOR STAR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Gates at the Malaysia-Thailand border in Bukit Kayu Hitam, near here, will likely stay open for 24-hours on Dec 21 in conjunction with Malaysia's Hari Raya Aidilfitri 2002 open house.

The Kedah Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, today said border will stay open to encourage Thai citizens to attend the event at Taman Tasik Bandar Darulaman, Jitra, from 8pm.

"We have allowed Tourism Malaysia to discuss with the Home Ministry (KDN) and basically I agree the border gates should be open for the whole day," he told reporters after chairing the monthly executive council meeting here.

The border gates are usually open for 12 hours daily and the state had earlier appealed to KDN for the gates to stay open throughout the year.

Besides the Yang DiPertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Jamalullail, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and federal dignitaries, the Prime Minister of Thailand and members of the Thai Cabinet are due to attend the open house.

The Menteri Besar also urged the ferry operators between Langkawi and Kuala Kedah to extend their services until midnight on Dec 21.

"There is a possibility many dignitaries attending the function will stay in Langkawi so we need the ferry services to extend beyond 8pm," he said.

Various attractions have been organised in conjunction with the open house, including presentation by popular local artistes like Erra Fazira, Siti Nurhaliza, KRU as well as Narumou Chivagkur and Sabchai Krai Yoon Sen from Thailand.

-- BERNAMA

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