

20/12/2002

#### Grand feast at national Hari Raya open house

JITRA, Thurs. - About RM2.1 million worth of food and beverages will be served to 200,000 people expected to attend Saturday's National Hari Raya Open House Celebration at the Bandar Darulaman theme park here.

Twenty-one caterers are busy preparing an extensive menu, which consists of 50,000 servings of Laksa Kedah, ketupat nasi and ketupat pulut, rendang, serunding, honey dew, kuih kacang and kuih bakar.

In addition, 70,000 pieces of kuih bahulu will be served to the guests.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry public relations officer Mahathir Mazlan said each serving would be individually packed to ensure hygiene.

He said some of the main dishes, such as Laksa Kedah, would only be prepared tomorrow as the food would go bad if prepared too early.

"Eight caterers are in charge of preparing Laksa Kedah alone, as there would not be enough time for one caterer to prepare 50,000 servings."

Mahathir said nine hotels in the State would sponsor and prepare several food items for the 1,500 invited VIP guests, including Ministers, diplomats, corporate figures and non-governmental organisations.

The hotels involved are:

- \* Holiday Villa Hotel, Alor Star;
- \* Seri Malaysia Hotels in Alor Star and Sungai Petani;
- \* Harvard hotel, Sungai Petani;
- \* Swiss Inn, Sungai Petani;
- \* Sentosa Regency Hotel, Alor Star;
- \* Sungai Petani Inn;
- \* MS Garden, Sungai Petani, and;
- \* Desa Utara, Pedu Lake.

Apart from hotel chefs, locals with vast experience in the food business are also helping to prepare the food.