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KEEP BUKIT KAYU HITAM OPEN 24 HOURS, URGES KADIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- The Malaysia-Thai border entry in Bukit Kayu Hitam should be kept open 24 hours to increase tourist-flow into both countries.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir who made the suggestion said most tour agents in Malaysia and Thailand chose to start their journey at night to reduce accomodation costs.

"If the border entry is kept open 24 hours they won't need to rent hotel rooms for too long," Kadir said at the national level Aidilfitri Open House meeting here today.

"The suggestion to keep the border entry open has been forwarded to the Immigration Department and we are now waiting for a reply. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir has also been informed about this," Kadir said.

Thai tourists would spend their money in Malaysia and Thai businessmen who operate 24 hours would benefit from tourists coming from Malaysia. The Thai government was also in favour of Malaysia keeping its border entry open 24 hours, Kadir said.

Tour operators have said this would increase the number of tourists in both countries, said Kadir. Currently, the border entry is open only till midnight.

--BERNAMA

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