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Abdul Kadir-Raya

KADIR TO INVITE THAI PM FOR HARI RAYA OPEN HOUSE

ALOR STAR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir will leave for Bangkok tomorrow to invite Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra for the National Hari Raya Open House here on Dec 21.

The open house will be graced by Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, the Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife Datuk Seri Endon Mahmood and other dignitaries.

"We are looking for an appropriate location for the open house here which will be attended by more than 200,000 people including Thai nationals," he told reporters after attending a briefing by the Kedah Tourism Action Council here.

"We have also invited the governors of the Thai provinces of Pattani, Yala, Satun, Naratthiwat and Songkhla to the Hari Raya open house. So far the governors of Yala and Pattani have accepted the invitation," he said.

Abdul Kadir said his ministry would seek the cooperation of the Home Ministry and keep the Bukit Kayu Hitam entry point open for 24 hours to enable Thais to attend the open house.

"We hope the Hari Raya open house will strengthen relations between Malaysians in the north and the people in southern Thailand. Last year Johor Baharu hosted the Hari Raya open house and some 30,000 Singapore nationals attended," he said.

Abdul Kadir also said the former High Court complex in Jalan Raja here would be renovated and turned into the Kedah Tourism Information Office.

"The RM550,000 renovation works will begin soon and be completed in about four months," he added.

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