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Chinese-Dragon

LONGEST DRAGON TO FEATURE AT CHINESE NEW YEAR DO IN IPOH

IPOH, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- A dragon measuring 153 metres, set to be the longest ever made in Malaysia, will be the main highlight of the national-level Chinese New Year celebrations to be held here on Feb 16.

The dragon, made of rattan, bamboo, aluminium, cloth and canvass and weighting about 290kg, will be displayed during the celebrations and entered into the Malaysia Book of Records.

Perak MCA liason committee chairman Datuk Ong Ka Chuan said he believed that the 504-foot dragon that took one month to be completed could well be the longest in the world too.

"We were told that Jackie Chan (movie star) made a 2,000-metre dragon that was put on the Great Wall of China to celebrate the year of dragon. We have doubts because it's only for display whereas ours is danceable," he told reporters today.

In Malaysia, the longest recorded so far was a 386-foot dragon in Johor while there was one measuring 400-foot in Singapore.

Ong said 15 experts from various Chinese associations in the state volunteered their services to make the dragon which has 58 portions attached by steel bars.

"We need 58 people to dance the dragon at any one time. There will be about 150 people involved as we need to change them every two minutes due to its weight," he added.

Ong said that the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would grace the occasion while a crowd of more than 50,000 was expected.

The event, similar to the recent Hari Raya celebration in Johor Baharu, is jointly organised by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry and the Perak government.

More than 200 stalls would be dishing out free food while there would also be cultural performances of the various ethnic groups in the country. A lion dance troupe from Muar which won the World Lion Dance Championship would perform as well.

Ong said the event, to be held at the Ipoh Padang from 7pm, would also consist of a 25-minute firework display while about 1,000 tourists from all over the world would also attend the event.

-- BERNAMA

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