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Tuah-Open/BM

MAHATHIR TO OPEN HANG TUAH WALK, 40,000 EXPECTED TO ATTEND

MELAKA, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- Some 40,000 people are expected to flood Jalan Hang Tuah here on Thursday when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opens the "Hang Tuah Walk" pedestrian mall.

State Housing, Local Government and Environment Committee chairman Datuk Wira Poh Ah Tiam said the prime minister would be taken in a trishaw during a procession from Masjid Kampung Hulu to the main stage near Wisma Seri Negeri.

Speaking to reporters here today, Poh said Dr Mahathir would perform maghrib prayers and attend a dinner reception before opening "Hang Tuah Walk" after 8.30pm.

During his one-day visit to this historical town on that day, Dr Mahathir would also open a convention on Melaka and the Islamic World.

Hang Tuah Walk, which starts from the Jalan Munshi Abdullah interchange and ends at Hotel Golden Legacy, will also be lined up with five food centres and various food kiosks.

The five-metre wide pedestrian mall project stretches for 1.5km and is worth RM8.5 million.

Poh said considering the event would be held on a Thursday night, the entertainment would consist of only nasyid performances by the Raihan group, sketches and firework displays.

Meanwhile, Melaka Tengah deputy traffic police chief ASP Ahmad Salam Hamdan said Jalan Hang Tuah would be closed to traffic from 9am on Thursday, while several main routes in the Town such as Jalan Tun Mutahir, Lorong Graha Maju and Lorong Yayasan Melaka would be closed from 6pm onwards..

Those attending the opening ceremony will be able to park their vehicles at the Jalan Tun Ali taxi stand, the Jalan Tun Mutahir open space, Graha Maju, Yayasan Melaka and Kampung Jawa.

He said express buses and other private transportations heading to the town that night would be temporarily diverted to the Tesco supermarket at Peringgit.

"We would like to advise those attending the ceremony to take the buses arranged by some of the organisers," he said.

He said Jalan Syed Abdul Aziz and Jalan Ong Kim Wee would remain open to ease the movement of traffic heading towards Muar and Alor Gajah.

-- BERNAMA

NO SHR SK