

27 MAR 2002

MOHD ALI-GERMANY

MELAKA TO ATTRACT MORE GERMAN TOURISTS

MELAKA, March 27 (Bernama) -- The Melaka state government is in the midst of preparing the groundwork to attract more German tourists to the state, said chief minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam today.

A total of 8,000 German tourists visited Melaka last year.

Mohd Ali said the promotion programme would include inviting travel agents and travel writers to the state next month.

"From the 70,000 German tourists who visited Malaysia last year, only 8,000 visited Melaka," he told reporters here.

Mohd Ali, who accompanied Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his official visit to Germany last week, said he spoke to several officials from Munich on proposals to promote Melaka and Germany as tourist destinations.

They include plans like having the Munich International Exhibition Centre to have a permanent exhibition in Melaka.

Mohd Ali said the Melaka International Trade Centre at Ayer Keroh, which was expected to be ready by the end of next year, had been proposed as the exhibition site.

He said the Munich International Exhibition Centre has 81 branches through the world but so far has only one in the Far East in Shanghai, China.

During his visit to Munich, Mohd Ali said he was impressed with its solid waste disposal and metered car parking systems which may be introduced in Melaka.

The chief minister was also attracted to Munich's concept of recreational parks which incorporated soccer pitches as well. -- BERNAMA
NO SHY