

18 DEC 2002

Raya-Open House

PREPARATIONS IN FULL SWING FOR "MALAYSIA HARI RAYA OPEN HOUSE"

ALOR STAR, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- Preparations are in full swing for the "Malaysia Hari Raya Aidilfitri Open House" at Taman Tasik Bandar Darulaman, Jitra, on Saturday.

Preparations committee adviser Datuk Tengku Alaudin Tengku Majid said the open house beginning from 6pm would be attended by Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong and 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 Datuk Seri Endon Mahmood will also be present.

Among the 10,000 Thai nationals at the function would be Prime Minister Thakshin Shinawatra and several Cabinet Ministers.

Tengku Alaudin said MAS Catering, Fama and the Kedah Regional Development Authority (Keda) would supply the food which would range from ketupat, lemong, nasi himpit to laksa, kuah kacang, fried noodles and curry.

Mobile toilets would also be placed at convenient locations.

All heavy vehicles would not be allowed between Simpang Sintok and Plaza Tol Alor Star Selatan on Dec 21 from 3pm.

Kedah Police Traffic Administrator ASP Sadriyah Mohd Saad said the vehicles would not be allowed into that stretch until the entire open house function was over.

He said heavy vehicles from the north headed for the south should exit the highway at Simpang Sintok and enter Jalan Pauh while those from the south heading north should leave the highway at Plaza Tol Alor Star Selatan.

He said some 300 traffic police personnel would be on duty to ensure this arrangement was adhered to.

Private cars should park at Sekolah Menengah Tanjung Pauh, Sekolah Menengah Bandar Darul Aman, the pasar malam site at Tanah Merah, Dewan Jitra and China Town in Jalan Osman Aroff here.

Sadriyah said shuttle-buses from the parking areas would ferry the people to the open house.

Some 70 buses from Thailand would park at the Industrial Training Institute, Politeknik Sultan Muadzam Shah (Polimas) and at the Institut Perguruan Darul Aman (IPDA) in Jitra.

-- BERNAMA

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