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Kadir-Christmas

ROYAL COUPLE TO ATTEND NATIONAL-LEVEL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

MELAKA, Dec 25 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid are scheduled to attend the national-level Christmas open house at Hang Tuah Mall, here this Saturday.

Other dignitaries expected to attend include Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin and wife Toh Puan Marfuza Sheikh Mohd Osman, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam Ali and wife as well as almost 150,000 people comprising locals and foreign tourists.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the open house shows that the Malaysian government grants its people the freedom to practice their religion freely.

He said this was despite Malaysia being recognised as a Islamic country.

The open houses held for the festivities celebrated by the various races shows that Malaysians live freely in peace and harmony, he told reporters after checking on preparations for the open house at Jalan Hang Tuah here today.

Abdul Kadir said a total of 166 foreign journalists including six international television stations had also been invited to record the event.

"They will record (the event) and make a write-up on the festivities in Malaysia and this will promote Malaysia to the world," he said.

On preparations for the open house, he said works were progressing as scheduled and various delicacies such as roti canai, rendang, ketupat, lemang and traditional foods of the various races in the country would be served to visitors on that day.

"Visitors will also get the opportunity to see the beauty of the Hang Tuah Mall which was launched by the Prime Minister last Oct 3. This is the time for the people to gather in harmony and in a goodwill spirit," he said.

The open house will begin at 6pm and would be enlivened with fireworks displays as well as performances by local artistes such as Senario, Francisca Peters and Najib Hanif.

Besides that, various cultures of the multi-racial community such as the Baba and Nyonya community would also be showcased.

-- BERNAMA

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