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Kelantan-dinner

SULTAN AND DR MAHATHIR TO ATTEND PEOPLE'S DINNER

KOTA BAHARU, March 10 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Kelantan and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad are expected to join some 30,000 guests to a people's dinner within the compound of Istana Negeri, Kubang Kerian here on April 12.

Organising committee chairman Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali said the Raja Perempuan of Kelantan and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali were also expected to attend the unprecedented event organised in conjunction with the Sultan's 52nd birthday.

Some 25,000 seats would be provided for members of the public while another 5,000 for VIPs including Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, ministers, deputy ministers, parliamentary secretaries and menteri besar, he told reporters here today.

He said the event was aimed at fostering unity among the people of Kelantan and strengthening the institution of rulers as the protector of the people.

In conjunction with the event, a procession of the legendary Petalawati bird in the story of Princess Saadong, measuring 7.3m by 6.1m, would be held from Istana Mahkota, Kubang Kerian to Istana Negeri, he said.

During the two-kilometre procession, the Sultan and Raja Perempuan of Kelantan, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah, and Regent of Kelantan would ride in carriages specially brought for the occasion from Lampang, Chiang Mai in northern Thailand.

He said the procession would also display 24 types of Kelantanese arts and cultures, some of which were on the verge of extinction.

The people's dinner would start at 8pm and there would be performances by popular artistes including Siti Nurhaliza, he said.

Ibrahim said several giant TV screens would also be set up outside the palace's compound.

"The function will be recorded in the Malaysia Book of Record as the biggest people's dinner as well as the replica of the Petalawati bird," he said.

He estimated 100,000 people would witness the historic event for the people of Kelantan.

--BERNAMA

BD RAR ABG