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Anifah-Independence

CLOSING OF INDEPENDENCE MONTH PROMISES TO BE UNIQUE AFFAIR

KOTA KINABALU, April 25 (Bernama) -- The closing of the Independence Month celebration, to be held here on Sept 16, will capture the spirit of the occasion in a unique way, the organisers said today.

"We want it to be something different, an event showcasing the cultures of Malaysians in a manner different from previous celebrations. We do not want a repetition," Main Organising Committee chairman Datuk Anifah Aman said.

The committee would consider feedback from various quarters, including the people and the private sector, he told reporters after chairing the second meeting of the committee here.

Anifah, who is Deputy Primary Industries Minister, represents the federal government in the main committee while Sabah Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Joseph Kurup represents the state government.

"This is not a special celebration for Sabah. It is a national celebration...we will contact other states to take part so that tourists can get to see not only Sabah culture but also those of other states," he said.

The event will be held in the vicinity of the Likas Sports Complex so as to accommodate an estimated 100,000 people expected for the occasion.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Cabinet ministers, Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers and foreign diplomats would be attending, he said.

He said tour operators should promote the event among foreigners and organise special packages for the celebration as it was part of the national tourism calendar.

"We hope that by then the SARS problem would be reduced," he said.

-- BERNAMA

JS YBY