

29 MAY 2003

S'wak-Gawai

DEPUTY KING TO ATTEND NATIONAL GAWAI DAYAK 'OPEN HOUSE'

SIBU, May 29 (Bernama) -- The Timbalan Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin is scheduled to attend this year's national Gawai Dayak 'open house' on June 14 here.

Minister in charge of the celebration, Datuk Seri Dr James Jemut Masing told reporters today that the very colourful event would be held from 8pm to midnight at the town square.

He said that Sarawak Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Abang Salahuddin Abang Barieng, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzil, State Cabinet members and dignitaries including foreign diplomats would be present at the celebration.

Dr Masing said that some 100,000 people were expected at the function where food and drinks would be served through the courtesy of the Malaysain Hotels Association, Sarawak Chapter.

He said that the event, the third to be held, would be very unique.

"Selected cultural activities and items of the three major Dayak communities namely the Iban, Bidayuh and Orang Ulu will be demonstrated live to the public at their respective miniature longhouses built at the periphery of the town square."

He said that the celebration, to unite all Malaysians as well as to get them to understand each other's ethnic cultures better, would be televised live through RTM from 9pm.

Meanwhile, State Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Abang Johari Tun Openg, who was present at the media conference, said that some 150 journalists, travel writers and television crew from all over the world would be covering the event.

He said that besides a fireworks display, there would be performances by popular artistes and cultural performance by the Dayak Cultural Foundation and the Sarawak Cultural Village troupes.

-- BERNAMA

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