

29 JAN 2003

Festival-Food

DON'T TAKE AWAY FOOD FROM OPEN HOUSE FUNCTIONS - KADIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- It is a bad habit to take home food from festival open houses as late comers will be deprived of food, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said today.

"This habit must be stopped at once before it turns into an unhealthy culture," he said at a media conference, at his ministry here, in conjunction with the Chinese New Year open house celebration.

Abdul Kadir said he noticed the trend at several national leaders open house functions.

"Open house celebrations are venues to create close unity among the communities and time to wish others who celebrate the festival. It is not just for food."

The national level Chinese New Year open house function would be held at Dataran Petaling Jaya in Jalan Timur on Feb 8.

The 5.30pm event, to be live telecast by RTM, is expected to attract about 200,000 guests and the ministry would invite about 200 foreign journalists.

Abdul kadir said the event is to promote racial unity and tolerance among the people, besides exhibiting the country's peaceful and colourful multicultural setting.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali would grace the function.

Public attending the event are advised to travel by Putra LRT, that would operate until 3am offering half the ticket price, to avoid traffic congestion in the area.

About 6,224 parking lots would be available for motorists in the vicinity, besides 1,500 lots at the Kelana Jaya, Taman Bahagia, Taman Paramount and Asiajaya LRT stations.

Local artistes Nurul and Ajai, Alleycats, Kong Brothers, Poetic Ammo, and guest singer Andy Lau from Hong Kong and Taiwanese An Niu would entertain the crowd.

-- BERNAMA

AZH AZZ VP