

19 FEB 2003  
Craft-Day  
FEB 28 - NATIONAL CRAFT DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- To recognise the efforts of handicraft entrepreneurs and enthusiasts the cabinet had fixed Feb 28 of every year as the National Craft Day.

Its minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said this would boost the industry's development and help promote local handicrafts as gifts and souvenirs.

"Malaysian handicrafts are quality products and they are tailored for targeted markets overseas," he told reporters in conjunction with the National Craft Day celebration from Feb 27 to Mar 2.

The National Craft Day would be held on Feb 28 at Kompleks Kraf Kuala Lumpur, Jalan Conlay and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to launch the ceremony.

Nazri said the special craft day themed "Cinta Kraf Malaysia" is in-line with Kraftangan Malaysia's efforts to promote local handicrafts.

At the function two "Anugerah Tokoh Kraf Negara 2002" would be presented -- the first award presentation was held in 1998.

Each winner will receive RM30,000, a pair of songket costume worth RM1,500, RM1,500 travelling allowance, living cost of RM1,500 and medical treatment in first class government hospitals for five years amounting to RM7,000.

On Mar 1, 105 entrepreneurs will participate in the bazaar sales and 354 handicraft businessmen will attend a closed-door forum on funding and aid for industry players.

-- BERNAMA  
LIB AHH VP