

27 MAY 2003

Festival

LUN BAWANG FESTIVAL IN LAWAS TO BE CELEBRATED IN GRAND SCALE

KUCHING, May 27 (Bernama) -- Next month, one of Sarawak's colourful and culturally rich Lun Bawang community will celebrate its annual Lun Bawang festival in Lawas in a grand scale, Sarawak Lun Bawang Association (SLBA) president William Ghani Bina said today.

He said that Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud would launch the Lun Bawang Festival. This is the first time the festival will be attended by Sarawak's top Barisan Nasional leader and is a great honour for the small community.

"The Lun Bawang festival is to showcase the community's appreciation to the state government particularly to Abdul Taib who has led the state for the past 32 years very successfully to bring greater socio-economic development and enhance harmony and political stability," he told a media conference here.

He said that the main focus of the festival would be the Lun Bawang eight-door longhouses built of wood, bamboo and leaves. Beautiful and graceful maidens will parade their colourful gear and valuable beads.

"The Lun Bawang community living in Indonesia, Brunei and Sabah will take part in this festival," he said, adding that through this celebration, the younger generation would understand the culture of their forefathers especially those who work in town because culture was their identity.

William Ghani, who is also president of the Sarawak Teachers' Union (STU), said that he would discuss the proposal to build a new matriculation campus in Sarawak with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow.

"The campus can be sited in Kuching, Sibul or Miri and we will submit the proposal to the Education Department following the meeting with the Prime Minister," he said.

In his capacity as Sarawak Labour Council president, he urged the private sector to give the half-month bonus to their workers following the government's decision to reward civil servants with a half-month bonus.

He agreed with the Prime Minister that the measures to increase the people's disposable income included reduction of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contribution from 11 per cent to 9 per cent for one year.

-- BERNAMA

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