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Merdeka-Celebration

KUALA LUMPUR TO TURN INTO CITY OF LIGHTS ON MERDEKA EVE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- This year's Merdeka eve celebration, to be spearheaded by the Kuala Lumpur City Hall, will turn the nation's capital into a city of lights with some 100 buildings being lit simultaneously to mark the country's 46th National Day.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor said today that the event, to be held at three locations, would also attempt to break into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest-lit city in the world at any one time.

"The event, themed An Illuminating Journey, will be used to describe the path taken by the nation over the last 46 years. It will reflect the country's development and progress since 1957.

"The Merdeka eve celebration will include an audio-visual show, which will be reinforced with a spectacular play of lights and special effects on at least 100 buildings in the city," he told a news conference at his office at the Kuala Lumpur City Hall here.

He said the audio-visual spectacular would feature the world's brightest show ever, transforming the city's skyline into a magical dance of lights.

The event would be organised and produced by Sinergi Setia Sdn Bhd and Carlson White Sdn Bhd with the Kuala Lumpur City Hall playing host.

Tengku Adnan said the audio visual presentation, incorporating special intelligent lighting effects, giant colourful stills and moving images, would be beamed onto the facades of some 30 prominent buildings in the city.

"So far, about 30 building facades have been targeted in three zones to showcase the main audio visual and live entertainment. The three zones are Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), Bukit Bintang Walk and the historic Dataran Merdeka," he said.

The event would also be telecast live by all the local television stations while efforts were underway to attract foreign television stations to air the event.

At the same time, Tengku Adnan said, the public could also participate in the event by sending Thank You messages, which would be flashed across the facade of selected buildings.

"These Thank You messages will be flashed on buildings like the Dayabumi and the messages can be a word of thanks to the country or even the prime minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad). We will set up a secretariat for the event at City Hall and the public can send their messages to the secretariat," he said.

He said the Kuala Lumpur City Hall expected some 500,000 people to converge on various locations in the city for the event, which would begin at 10pm on Aug 30 and end at 12.30am on Aug 31.

"We are also planning to fly Dr Mahathir and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and their spouses into the city from Putrajaya so that they can have a spectacular bird's eye view of Kuala Lumpur on that night," Tengku Adnan said.

Arrangements would be made with the Kuala Lumpur traffic police to ensure that people use public transport to attend the event.

"We are also talking to the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry to make the event a tourist attraction. It could be held annually but on a smaller scale," he said.

The Kuala Lumpur City Hall is looking for sponsors for the mega-event and interested parties can get in touch with the event secretariat at the City Hall.

-- BERNAMA

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