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Kadir-Deepavali

OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATIONS, AN ASSET TOWARDS CREATION OF A MALAYSIAN RACE,  
SAYS KADIR

PENANG, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- The open house celebrations held in conjunction with festivals celebrated by communities in the country is an asset towards the creation of a Malaysian race, said Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

The presence of thousands of guests at government held open houses had helped to erase unwanted suspicions among the various communities and provided proof to the world that Malaysia could create a genuine and united Malaysian race, he said at the national open house held in conjunction with Deepavali here today.

He said the government had created a model such as the open house celebrations as guidance for the people to put into practice the underlying concept behind open houses.

"We should work together and contribute ideas to the government to achieve true unity at home and when we meet each other during celebrations," he said.

The open house was also attended by some 300 foreign media representatives who were invited by the government to see the colourful side of Malaysia and the harmony that existed among the various communities.

The Yang Dipertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullai had officiated the open house which was attended by over 50,000 people.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon meanwhile said in his speech the national open house reflected the unity of the people in nation-building efforts.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had inspired the people with the "Malaysia Boleh" slogan and the people should uphold the slogan to ensure that the country would continue to achieve progress and its plural society living in peace.

In KUALA LUMPUR, Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar Datuk Mohamad Shaid Mohamad Taufek officiated a Deepavali open house, jointly organised by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and Kuala Lumpur Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Over 2,000 people including foreign diplomats attended the open house.

Meanwhile, several foreign tourists met at the open house expressed their amazement at the uniqueness of the Malaysian cultures.

Steven Doel from German said the open house concept was something new to him.

"I really love the open house concept because its something unique. We don't have it in Europe," he said.

For Australian couple, Mr and Mrs Alex Wilkins, the open house was an excellent idea where everybody regardless of races and religions could come together and celebrate.

In ALOR STAR, more than 5,000 people attended a similar open house at the Menara Alor Star.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain also displayed his skill in preparing the "tosei", an Indian pancake, at the open house held from 11am to 5pm.

-- BERNAMA

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