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Handicraft to be proud of

Shamini Gopalan

HANDICRAFT lovers should not miss the chance to visit National Craft Day which will be held from tomorrow to Sunday at Kompleks Kraf, Kuala Lumpur.

Themed Cintai Kraf Malaysia, the event is organised by the Entrepreneur Development Ministry with the co-operation of the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation.

It will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday.

"The event is being held to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of entrepreneurs involved in making and selling handicraft.

"The demand for such items is considerable and we realise that the proceeds from their sales contribute a large part to our national economy," said Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz at a recent Press conference at the Mara headquarters in Jalan Raja Laut.

Also present were Deputy Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus, and Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation chairman Mastika Junaidah Husin.

"The event is also to create public awareness of the various types of handicraft products and their uses," said Nazri.

"National Craft Day will also provide a platform for entrepreneurs in the craft trade to get the latest information on the development of the industry in Malaysia."

In conjunction with the launch, a National Craft Champion Award (Anugerah Tokoh Kraf Negara) presentation will be held on Friday.

The award, to be presented for the second time since its introduction in 1998, will be given to craft traders in recognition of their efforts to promote Malaysian handicraft locally and abroad.

The winning entry will be judged on creativity, design, colour as well as the contestant's contribution to the advancement of the industry in Malaysia.

The winner will receive RM30,000 cash and gifts worth more than RM10,000.

Visitors to National Craft Day will get a chance to view and buy various handicraft products made of textile, wood, ceramic and steel.

The exhibition will be on from 9am to 6pm. Admission is free.

For enquiries, call 03-21627459.