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## Heart of Malaysian craft

KOMPLEKS Kraf Kuala Lumpur in Jalan Conlay in the heart of the city's golden triangle is a true one-stop craft centre, based on a concept of a living museum offering a rich cultural experience of multi-faceted Malaysia.

Come Feb 28, the complex will for the first time host the "Hari Kraf Kebangsaan" (National Craft Day), which will be officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The occasion is mooted to boost the aspirations and commitment of craft entrepreneurs and serve to safeguard national craft heritage and ensure its preservation for the benefit of future generations.

Several programmes open to the public will be held on Feb 27 and 28. They include Craft Bazaar, exhibitions, demonstrations, cultural performances and traditional games.

If you have not been to the complex, National Craft Day is a good opportunity to do so. You will be treated to a feast of the senses.

Your eyes will be drawn to the excellent display of local craft and artwork depicting the opulent heritage of the country. You are free to touch, feel and discover a treasure trove of all things Malaysian.

You can watch on-the-spot demonstrations, create your own masterpieces at the workshops, learn all you can about local crafts at the Craft Museum, chit chat with local artists at the Artist Colony, try local food and even participate in some events during special promotions and have a whale of a time shopping for a wide variety of Malaysian crafts and souvenirs.

The Craft Complex combines educational, marketing and cultural elements under one roof. Craft enthusiasts consider it a superb place for shopping as well as observing the diverse heritage of the country in the various crafts and artwork.

Perhaps, nowhere else in Kuala Lumpur can visitors discover so large a variety of craftwork representative of each of the 14 States in Malaysia.

Set within a beautifully landscaped area of lush greenery, flowers and fountains, the complex has become an attractive destination in the city where visitors and tourists can unwind and take respite.

The complex is run by the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation (Kraftangan Malaysia), an agency under the Entrepreneur Development Ministry. Besides preserving and promoting local crafts, Kraftangan Malaysia also contributes towards the development of the country's economy through various commercial and development programmes involving craft entrepreneurs.

Promotions based on specific themes are held regularly. Last year, "Promosi Sarung Mempersona" (on sarongs); "Promosi Panggilan Rimba" (on crafts made from jungle resources) and "Promosi Kraf Mushaf" (on calligraphy and Islamic design) were held.

Scheduled this year are promotions of ceramics, brassware, textile (including official attire made of woven fabrics) and junglecraft.

For details, call the complex at 03-21627459, fax 03-21612622 or visit <http://www.kraftangan.gov.my>.