

TYT, Anwar join 20,000 at Sabah open house

KOTA KINABALU: Some 20,000 people attended a Hari Raya open house at the Sabah International Convention Centre here.

Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Juhar Mahiruddin and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim were among those present at the open house, hosted by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor and his Cabinet.

Anwar, who arrived from Kuala Lumpur at about 11am, mingled with the crowd as they were entertained by celebrities at the outdoor podium before entering the hall.

It was Anwar's third official visit to Sabah since taking over as Prime Minister last November. He left the venue at about 1pm shortly after sending off Juhar.

When approached by reporters, Anwar said: "I am in a rush."

People began arriving at the venue at around 8am where they were treated to Hari Raya delicacies served from some 50 stalls.

Some came from as far as Tawau and Keningau.

Earlier, Hajiji gave out donations to more than 70 underprivileged people including the elderly, the sight and hearing impaired, as well as children from welfare homes and orphanages.

In a statement, the Chief Minister's Office said Hajiji would undergo surgery to remove gallstones next week.

The office said Hajiji had been experiencing some pain over the past week and was advised by his doctors to undergo a minor operation.

The statement came following speculation over his health in the last few days.

The Chief Minister thanked the public for their concerns and prayers, it said.



Carnival atmosphere:
Juhar, Anwar and Hajiji at the Hari Raya open house in Kota Kinabalu.