

**Chinese New Year Open House Achieved Its Objective - Rais  
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SITIAWAN, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- Information Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the Chinese New Year Open house organised at the Sitiawan airfield Saturday night had achieved its objective since 50,000 people from all races attended.

Rais said every space in the vast airfield was filled with people.

"The year of the dragon has a great significance because it is associated with power, strength and it is different from other beings. The dragon represents strength and happiness. And this can be used as a symbol for the unity of all races in the country," he said in his speech here.

He was also happy to note that the Chinese community had come in droves, not only from Sitiawan, but from other parts of the country as well.

Rais who was proud that the dragon dance performed by 250 dragon dance troupes was included in the Malaysia Book of Records, said the dragon year celebrated according to the Chinese Lunar calendar should also be used as an element for unity under the 1Malaysia concept.

"The traditional dance performed tonight brought about a significant meaning to the struggles of the people in Malaysia and also those living in Lumut," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor attended the open house.

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