

Rais Attends Programme To Enhance Malaysia-Cambodia Ties
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From Jamaluddin Muhammad

PHNOM PENH, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Minister of Information, Communications and Culture Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim attended the Programme to Boost Malaysia-Cambodia Common Culture at Kampung Speu, Chom Kaalee, 170km from here Saturday.

The programme was held in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidiladha celebration at the village which has a Muslim Malay population of 2,000.

Dr Rais, in his speech at the function, hoped that the Champa Malay culture in the country could continue to grow and be given prominence.

In introducing the Malaysian Malay culture to the Malay community in Cambodia, he said the Malaysian Department of Culture would stage a cultural show in this country soon.

Dr Rais said Malaysians had ties with the Malays in Kampung Cham in this country through marriage and commerce.

At the function, the Malaysian minister also handed over a contribution of RM10,000 to the Kampung Speu Mosque and RM12,000 to six surau in the surrounding areas.

Another contribution of RM5,000 was distributed to 50 students of religious schools.

Dr Rais's wife, Datin Seri Maznah Rais also handed over contributions to female students of religious schools.

Also present was the Malaysian Ambassador to Cambodia, Datuk Pengiran Mohd Hussein Mohd Tahir Nasruddin.

In an interview later, the Mufti of Cambodia, Kamaruddin Yusof said he was thankful for all the contributions.

He said the programme could assist efforts to further boost friendly ties between the Muslim communities of both countries.

Meanwhile, the Penang Cop Bikers, a motor riders club whose members comprise police personnel, also participated in the programme in Kampung Speu to contribute sacrificial meat and financial aid to residents in several villages in the area.

The club's deputy president, Mohd Fauzi Harun, 44, said they had travelled the 2,000km journey from Air Hitam, Penang on motorcycles from Oct 23 and arrived at the Cambodian capital on Oct 25.

Dr Rais, who is on a working visit to this country from Oct 24 to 27, earlier attended the Asean Socio-Culture Community Council Meeting, here.

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