

Kudat all set to welcome
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By ROY GOH

PM ALL-ROUND PARTICIPATION: Najib to go on walkabout in the birthplace of Usno in Kampung Ayer

KUDAT: MORE than 50,000 people are expected at the Jelajah Janji Ditepati carnival here tomorrow.

Residents around the district here, the sub-districts of Matunggong and Banggi as well as neighbouring Kota Marudu, Kota Belud and Pitas are expected to converge at Kudat Stadium for the carnival.

A convoy of vehicles will also be travelling 190km from Kota Kinabalu a day earlier, stopping by in districts such as Tuaran, Kota Belud and Kota Marudu to promote the carnival, which will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

A host of activities has been lined up where various government department, agencies and companies will be setting up booths for the public, followed by a concert in the evening.

Tanjung Kapor assemblyman Datuk Teo Chee Kang said it would be a busy weekend, but it was also a good opportunity for visitors to meet Najib.

"The prime minister is also scheduled for a walkabout in the Kampung Ayer area, which is the birthplace of Usno (United Sabah National Organisation), led by the late Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun in 1961."

Najib will also visit Istana Tun Mustapha, the private residence of the late leader.

"We are proud to host the prime minister and the carnival," Teo said, adding that Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman had visited the district earlier to ensure preparations for the carnival were proceeding smoothly.

Meanwhile, in Kota Marudu, single mother Runsikin Mosimpan, 52, was busy preparing local groundnuts, popularly known as "kacang Kudat" at her stall.

Runsikin said she was anticipating that there would be a lot of people stopping by the area known as Simpang Tiga, what with the carnival about 70km from here.

(Simpang Tiga is a popular rest-and-recreation area near a forked junction that leads to Kudat from Kota Kinabalu in Kota Marudu.)

"People from Kota Kinabalu, Tuaran, Ranau, Kota Belud and even Pitas will stop here to rest, or buy some things on their way back," she said while drying groundnuts outside her stall.

"I used to operate by the roadside but the government helped traders like me by building a parking lot in front of our stalls," Runsikin said, adding that it was now more comfortable for visitors and the traders.

"Gestures such as building a parking lot or providing clean water supply or electricity mean a lot to simple folk like us because they help to improve our lives," the mother of three said.

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