

Sultan Of Johor Coronation Preparation Is 90 Per Cent Complete

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JOHOR BA HARU, March 11 (Bernama) -- Preparations for Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar's coronation is 90 per cent complete, says Coronation Ceremony Publicity Committee chairman, Md Jais Sarday.

He said preparations for the coronation on March 23, included the secretariat, publicity and media centre for local and foreign media.

"The committee has prepared a media centre at the Jubli Intan Hall here to accommodate 100 local members of the press from 20 print and electronics media, and 17 members of the foreign press, including the National Geographic," he told reporters after visiting the media centre here today.

Md Jais, who is also Johor Education, Information, Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Committee chairman said the media centre would be handled by the state information department and a few agencies, starting March 16.

He said at least nine ceremonies would be held for the coronation, beginning March 16, among them the 'Istidat Meletak Kerja'; 'Tahlil and Doa Kesyukuran'; 'Majlis Siram Tabal' and the coronation ceremony at the Istana Besar here on March 23.

He said after the coronation, the Sultan of Johor was expected to join the 8.5km long procession of vehicles from the Istana Besar to Istana Bukit Serene.

About 40,000 people are expected to watch the procession - a similar vehicle procession concept as that of his late father, Almarhum Sultan Ismail's coronation ceremony in 1960.

Md Jais said various events were also available to the people, such as exhibitions conducted by the Johor National Archives at the Persada Convention Centre here, and in other districts that provide opportunities for the people to know more about the Johor Sultanate's history.

"From March 23 to 28, there will be cultural performances in the Johor Baharu City Council (JBCC) Square at 8pm. The Sultan is expected to watch the cultural performances, themed 'Payung Mahkota, Raja dan Rakyat Berpisah Tiada' on March 28.

Meanwhile, JBCC corporate and public relations director Abdul Aziz Ithnin said the council would organise a lighting competition involving buildings under the jurisdiction of the council, from March 15 to 30, in conjunction with the coronation ceremony.

He said the objective of the competition was to create a joyous atmosphere to visitors, in view of the coronation's celebration.

"The competition is divided into four categories, namely government buildings, hotels, shopping centres and detached commercial buildings.

"The competition offers a cash prize of RM10,000, in addition to winning the first trophy and certificate of participation," he said in a statement here today.

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