

DPM Opens Kuching Waterfront Festival-Regatta Sarawak 2015

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KUCHING, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on Saturday opened the Kuching Waterfront Festival-Regatta Sarawak 2015 at the Kuching Waterfront here.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister, was accompanied by Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu and Sarawak Tourism Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The regatta, the highlight of which is a Sarawak traditional long boat race, was introduced in 1872 when Sarawak was ruled by Rajah Brooke. Then it was aimed at fostering unity among the people and stop inter-ethnic warfare in the state.

Ahmad Zahid also took time to witness one of the long boat races.

Apart from the long boat race, the regatta this time also had a dragon boat race from Sept 18-20 involving 25 teams, including from countries like Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Singapore.

Hong Kong also sent a team while the local participation was from Sabah, Penang, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur.

The two-week long festival which began on Sept 18 and ends tomorrow (Sept 27) also has many side activities like a food fair, crafts exhibition and entertainment programmes.

After witnessing the race, Ahmad Zahid, who arrived here yesterday for a two-day visit to Sarawak, left for two "Meet-the-People" sessions - at Rh. Methew Manai Tan in Kampung Kerangas Baru, Melikin, located at Kilometre 94 Jalan Kuching/Sri Aman and Kampung Terbat Leban at Kilometre 25 Jalan Serian/Mongkos in Serian.

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