

Parliament: 10 Tourism Offices Closed, Four Maintained As Regional Offices

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- Only 10 state Tourism Malaysia offices are closed while another four are maintained as regional offices, said the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

According to the ministry's written reply in Parliament today, the offices retained are the central regional office in Kuala Lumpur (covering Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan), northern regional office in Penang (covering Penang, Perak, Kedah and Perlis), southern regional office in Johor (covering Johor and Melaka) and east coast regional office in Pahang (covering Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu).

For Sabah and Sarawak, both tourism information centres in Kota Kinabalu and Kuching international airports would act as a mini Tourism Malaysia.

Tourism Malaysia will maintain the Tourism Information Centre (TIC) in the existing states to facilitate the dissemination of information to tourists.

The written reply was in response to an oral question from Datuk Seri Hasan Malek (BN-Kuala Pilah) who wanted a clarification from the ministry on the restructuring and tourism related functions entrusted to Tourism Malaysia following a directive to close all state Tourism offices nationwide recently.

The ministry said among the functions of the Tourism Malaysia offices are managing all TIC in every state, act as a point of reference and advisory to tourism industry stakeholders such as hotels, travel agencies, tour operators and tourism associations in tourism promotion campaigns.

They will also assist in all research initiatives related to tourism conducted by the ministry and Tourism Malaysia as well as updating all tourism product inventories in every state so that packages can be created and promoted.

Prior to this, the government made a decision to close all Tourism Malaysia offices nationwide to avoid duplication of work with state agencies in promoting tourist destinations in the country.

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