



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MALAYSIA'S CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA IN MAY & JUNE**

Be enthralled and entertained by the sensational month-long cultural extravaganza, *Colours of Malaysia 2004*, which runs from 22 May to 19 June. Also known as *Citrawarna Malaysia 2004*, this celebration promises to satisfy the appetite for local arts and crafts, traditional music, exotic dance, traditions and food of diverse cultures. The event, first held on 16 October 1999, is an annual event highlighting the cultures and traditions of the country.

*Colours of Malaysia 2004* kicks off with a spectacular launching ceremony on 22 May themed "Waves and Colours", a colourful multi-cultural parade that showcases the dazzling cultural heritage of the different states of Malaysia.

At approximately 8.30pm, some 6,000 participants from all over the country will put up a colourful display of ethnic dances and musical performances at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur.

His Majesty, the King of Malaysia will launch *Citrawarna Malaysia 2004* in the presence of dignitaries including the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, foreign ambassadors and members of the international and local media.

Malaysians and foreign tourists are also expected to be present to add to the merriment of the event.

In conjunction with the month-long celebration, a host of exciting activities at the national and state level have been lined up for May and June. Each activity offers visitors an insight into the unique cultural heritage of the multi-racial composition of Malaysia.

## **KUALA LUMPUR**

In the capital city, **Kuala Lumpur**, the ***Gordang Sembilan***, an arts performance of the *Mandaling* society, which is popular in Negeri Sembilan, Selangor and Perak, can be seen at Laman Seni, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman on 29 May. The performance features nine large drums. *Gordang Sembilan* is an official drum instrument of Selangor state.

On the 5, 6, 12 and 13 June, children and students from around Kuala Lumpur will perform cultural shows at Suria KLCC and Berjaya Times Square, two major shopping complexes in the city.

**Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur**, a dance drama organised by the Kuala Lumpur City Hall will be staged at Panggung Bandaraya on 19 and 20 June.

KL Tower is hosting **Tune to the Rhythms of KL**, an open dance class on 29 May and 12 June for tourists, foreign diplomats and city dwellers.

The **Children's Theatre Show** presents ***Sungai Bonda*** based on the beauty of nature and the love for the environment. It will be staged at Auditorium Tuanku Abdul Rahman in the

Malaysia Tourism Centre (MTC), Jalan Ampang, from 7 to 13 June.

Another entertaining theatre event entitled **Ghazal Party Queen** will be held at MTC from 12 to 16 June. *Ghazal* parties were famous in northern Peninsular Malaysia in the 1960s and 1970s. Apart from the music that is similar to the hypnotic tunes from the desert, *ghazal* parties are synonymous with male belly dancers.

### **NORTHERN REGION: PERLIS, KEDAH, PENANG & PERAK**

In the northern state of **Perlis**, the **Perlis State Theatre Festival** from 31 May to 3 June can be seen at the auditorium in the State Cultural Park.

From 4 to 7 June, the **Hadrah Festival** will be held at Kangar, the state capital, to promote the Hadrah as a performing arts to the public.

At the Dataran Tunku in Alor Star, **Kedah** the **Crafts Bazaar** on 28 and 29 May features a wide array of crafts.

The **Colours of the City** displays creative works in photography and art at the Telekom Tower in Alor Star on 5 June, while the **Kedah Arts Festival** at the State Cultural Park on 18 and 19 June highlights cultural and arts performances from Kedah.

On the island of **Langkawi**, the Laman Padi Museum will host various activities on 5 June. The **Harvest Festival** will have a rice crisp making demonstration and competition. Rice crisp is a popular snack among the people of Kedah.

***Jom Pi Bendang (Let's Work the Fields)*** is a football competition for 6-year-olds while a tug-of-war competition will be held on 6 June.

Also at Laman Padi Museum, the **Customs of a Malay Wedding** on 6 June showcases Malay wedding ceremonies, shadow play, freshwater fish cooking competition, Marhaban (religious songs praising the Prophet) and *silat* (Malay art of self-defence) demonstration.

From 8.30pm to 9.30pm on the same day, the public can witness the **Langkawi Colours of Malaysia Parade** featuring a wedding procession from the Aseania Hotel to the Laman Padi Museum led by a bridegroom who will be accompanied by dancers from various communities, drummers, musicians and a lion dance troupe.

At the Langkawi Craft Complex, demonstrations of handicraft making from natural resources, such as ceramic carving, sun hat and kite making, and glass blowing can be seen from 22 May to 19 June.

Also taking place at the Langkawi Craft Complex on the same dates is the **Northern Showcase: Cultural Performance** which features a dance fiesta, northern cultural dances and a *silat* demonstration accompanied by folk music from local traditional musicians.

As part of the official month-long programme, **the state of Penang will be hosting the mid-segment of Citrawarna Malaysia 2004 on 29 May at Dataran Pemuda Merdeka, Seberang Perai Town Council.** The event will be a parade comprising Chingay, lion and dragon dances, school bands and performances by local artistes. The state of Kedah, Perlis and

Penang will each send 300 participants to the Citrawarna Malaysia 2004 parade in Penang.

The **Penang Arts Festival-YTL 2004** at *Dewan Sri Pinang Auditorium* during June offers a range of traditional and ancient performing arts by participants from several ASEAN countries.

*Boria* artistes and enthusiasts from Penang will display their talents in **Gema Boria Semutiara IV**. Held in conjunction with the Colours of Malaysia for the fourth time, it aims to develop and uphold the standard of the *boria* performing arts at the Merdeka Youth Field, Seberang Prai Town Council on 26 June at 8.30pm.

On 12 June, the Penang Arts Awards 2004 at the Penang Cititel Hotel will recognise writers and arts activists who have excelled in the development of arts and culture in the state.

The state of **Perak**, with its multitude of races, is also rich with cultural inheritance and artistic buffs. The State Cultural Park will stage the **Perak State Theatre Festival** in May, showcasing new productions by theatre groups.

From 16 – 20 June, the **Colours of Perak Carnival** at Ipoh Square includes cultural shows and a wide variety of cuisines.

The **official closing of Citrawarna 2004** which falls on 19 June will be held at Ipoh, Perak. The **Colours of Perak Parade** will feature cultural troupes representing districts in Perak and arts societies, as well as specially invited troupes from other states and countries.

## **CENTRAL REGION: SELANGOR & NEGERI SEMBILAN**

The **Colours of Malaysia Month** in **Selangor** begins on 29 May with a parade of colourful dances along Jalan Kemajuan,

Subang Jaya, performances by local artistes and a fireworks display.

The **Selangor Drum Festival** will be at Shah Alam Square on 5 June. The same venue will host the **Selangor Arts Festival** on 12 June, showcasing Selangor traditional arts performances including the *Cempuling*, *Jidur*, *Hadrah* and traditional dances.

The **Negeri Sembilan Cultural Carnival** is a cultural exchange event enlivened by the parade of international troupes from countries like Mexico, Uzbekistan, Hungary and India, together with local groups. It starts on 28 May till 6 June at Jalan Yam Tuan, Seremban, and the official opening will be on 30 May at 9pm.

From 31 May to 5 June, there will be cultural performances in various districts of Negeri Sembilan that will host the SUKMA X (10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Games) events. The districts include Seremban, Nilai, Kuala Pilah and Port Dickson.

These districts will also highlight and promote the *Adat Perpatih* in Negeri Sembilan during the ***Adat Perpatih* Ethnic Festival** from 11 – 13 June.

## **SOUTHERN REGION: MALACCA & JOHOR**

In the historical city of **Malacca**, the ***Dondang Sayang* Festival** will be held on the 12 and 13 June at Hang Tuah Mall.

The **Malacca Baba Nyonya & Chetty Peranakan Festival 2004** highlights their specialities in June at the Equatorial Hotel, Mahkota Parade and the Baba Nyonya Museum.

The **Malacca Arts Festival** to be held at Kris Square, Alor Gajah on 19 June features local arts and cultures, including a decorative trishaw and bullock cart parade.

At the southern state of **Johor**, the range of cultural and traditional performances include **Composition and Melodies** from 5 to 7 June at Plaza Kota Raya; **Johor Artistic Dance Appreciation** from 12 to 14 June at the Arts Plaza, Angsana Plaza and City Square Johor Bahru; and the **Johor Arts Festival 2004** from 19 to 21 June at Kluang Square.

### **EAST COAST: PAHANG, TERENGGANU & KELANTAN**

On 18 June from 8pm to 10pm, the **Pahang Open Gamelan Festival** will be held at the Sultan Hj Ahmad Shah Jubilee Hall Kuantan. The same event will be held at various shopping complexes in the city and the Esplanade from 18 to 20 June.

The **Pahang State Dance Festival** at the Pahang State Cultural Park on 11 to 13 June, from 8pm to 11pm features traditional dance troupes competing to represent the state at the National Dance Festival organised by the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia.

Other events held in Pahang in conjunction with Colours of Malaysia 2004 include the **Pahang Silat Martial Arts Competiiton** on 4 and 5 June in Kuantan; the **Pahang Theatre Festival** from 11 to 13 June at Pahang State Cultural Park; the **Pahang Indigenous Musical Group Competition** from 18 to 22 June in Kuantan; and the **Indigenous People Cultural Festival** from 9 to 20 June in Kedaik Village, Rompin.

In **Terengganu**, the **Schools Arts Festival** featuring dance, theatre performances, poems, quatrains and *nasyid* recitals by school children will be held at the State Cultural Park from 10 to 16 June. A **Children's Theatre** will also take place at the same venue from 18 to 20 June.

From 11 to 12 June, a festival to introduce and promote traditional games, especially kite flying and top spinning will be held at Batu Burok Beach, Kuala Terengganu.

The **Kelantan Dikir Laba Cultural Competition** from 30 May to 2 June introduces a Kelantanese art form of Middle Eastern influence. Each *dikir laba* team will sing Arabic songs in chorus (*dikir*). The event will take place at Pasir Mas Mini Stadium from 9pm to 12 midnight.

Other events taking place in the state are **Dikir Barat Song Championship** at the Kota Bharu Arts Arena from 10 to 16 June and the **Kelantan Colours of Malaysia Parade** at Kota Bharu Town on 21 May from 9pm to 12 midnight.

## **LABUAN, SABAH & SARAWAK**

East Malaysia will also organise a host of interesting activities depicting their unique local cultures and traditions.

In **Labuan**, a *Kadazandusun* cultural performance and exhibition will be held at the Labuan Marine Sports Complex on 23 May in conjunction with the *Tadau Kaamatan* (Harvest Festival) Open House.

In **Sarawak**, during the whole month of May, the **Miri May Fair** celebrates the town's effort to attain city status by the year



2005. Various parades, motor shows and competitions will be held during the fair.

The **Citra Kenyalang** at the Kuching Waterfront from 8 to 30 May aims to promote traditional arts and culture for both foreign tourists and local visitors.

On 1 and 2 June, the **Gawai Carnival & Cultural Festival** will be celebrated in Sarawak. Gawai Dayak, the harvest festival, is a month-long celebration in longhouses and villages throughout the state and the ideal time to experience the local customs, dances and traditions. Be prepared to consume copious amounts of *tuak*, a potent rice wine that plays an important part in the celebrations.

To mark the end of the Gawai celebrations, the **Ngiling Bidai Sekual** festival on 19 and 20 June at Sekuau Community Hall includes various entertainment programmes such as the Kumang Gawai beauty contest and colourful ethnic dances.

The **Irau Aco Lun Bawang** celebrated during the harvest festival reflects a unique tradition and culture. Usually celebrated in Ulu Baram, it has now moved to Lawas in northern Sarawak. Traditional dances are accompanied by the sounds of musical instruments made of bamboo. Souvenirs are also displayed at the arts and crafts exhibition.

The **Sabah Fest 2004 – A Cultural Extravaganza** will be held on 7 & 8 May at Sutera Harbour Resort & Spa, Kota Kinabalu. Home to more than 30 different ethnic groups, Sabah's rich age-old customs and traditions are celebrated during this two-day festival.

Throughout the month of May, cultural games and dances performed by ethnic groups from Sabah can be seen during **Tadau**

**Kaamatan (Harvest Festival)**, a unique celebration when the Kadazandusun people gather to offer thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. Held in every district, it culminates in a state level celebration on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May, when the *Unduk Ngadau* Queen (or the Harvest Queen) is crowned.

In conjunction with the Harvest Festival, the Monsopiad Cultural Village is holding an exhibition on the importance of the female shaman in the daily life of the Kadazandusun people in Sabah. Visitors can witness ceremonies like the *Magavau*, *Humabot*, *Monogit* and *Momodu*, which are prayers to seek blessings.

The **Harvest Festival Regatta** on 30 and 31 May is a colourful annual gathering of sailing enthusiasts from all over Borneo taking part in this two-day event at the Kinabalu Yacht Club.

The **Exotic Handicrafts Fiesta** at Heritage Village, Sabah Museum, from 2 till 29 May features over 30 types of ethnic handicrafts on display to the public.

The **Sabah state level Tadau Kaamatan Festival** will be on 30 and 31 May at the Sabah Cultural Centre & Kadazandusun Cultural Centre.

Come savour Malaysia's rich and unique cultures and traditions of its plural society during the Colours of Malaysia Month this May and June.

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DATE: 18 May 2004

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