

RM600,000 for Harvest joy

By Elizabeth Majaham

KOTA KINABALU: The State government has allocated RM600,000 for this year's Pesta Kaamatan celebration, an increase of RM50,000 from the previous year.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan who chairs the State-level committee on Wednesday said they would try to make do with the amount and together with contributions from the private sector make the event a success.

According to him, the theme for this year, "Together towards a good Harvest" is meant to be a call to the various ethnic groups in Sabah to work together in order for the government to succeed in its development endeavour with regard to the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

As for the preparations, he said everything was going smoothly. With the commitment shown by everyone involved, efforts to bring in tourists, both domestic and foreign

would prove fruitful in promoting Visit Malaysia Year 2007.

Meanwhile, Pairin who is also patron of the Pesta Kaamatan National-level Committee said the event celebrated for the third time in the country and the second time in Sabah would be held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on May 31 starting at 8pm.

It would be officiated by the King. Popular local artistes as well as from the Peninsula including Siti Nurhaliza would be invited to entertain the crowd. This would be a good opportunity for parents to bring their children to have a feel of UMS' grounds as well, he said.

On the home scene, Pairin said the celebration would kick off as usual on May 30 at Hongkod Koisaan and this time there would be more traditional and cultural presentations including an exhibition of village life in the northern part of Sabah.