

Two-day herbs carnival to promote Sabah heritage

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By Larry Ralon

KOTA KINABALU: The Industrial Development Ministry and Gitex (M) Sdn Bhd will jointly organise a two-day carnival, to promote Sabah's herbal heritage, industry and healthy living, at the Kota Kinabalu Sports Complex in Likas here beginning Dec 2.

The State-level carnival called 'Karnival Celik Herba Sabah 2006 - Sabah Pintu Gerbang dan Hub Herba ke Negara Jiran' will be participated by some 80 producers of herb products and related support agencies.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman is expected to officiate at the opening of the event that is being jointly supported by more than 15 other Government and private institutions.

These include the Rural Development Ministry, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Institute of Development Studies Sabah, Agriculture Department, Mardi, Smidec, UMS, UiTM, Health Department, Mida, Kota Kinabalu City Hall, Sabah Parks, Sabah Tourism Board, Sirim, Sedco, Sabah Umno Wanita, Sabah Bumiputera Chamber of Commerce, and Sabah Malay Chamber of Commerce.

Disclosing this at a press conference, Gitex Chief Executive Officer, Hajah Safinah Haji Yaakob, said the carnival aims to among others give early exposure to the corporate and public on herbs and their potential.



Safinah (centre) receiving a mock key from Edaran Tan Chong Motor's GM Yeoh Kim Long.

She said it also aims to identify those involved in the herb industry in Sabah, offer the available assistance and enhancement activity for the industry, coordinate the related activities at the Central and State levels as well as enlighten the *halatuju* and commitment of the State Government.

At the event, there will be exhibitions on the variety of health products including the latest available in the market, herb seedling and fertilisers, planting technology and biotechnology, mock-up and showcase of herb landscape, as well as spa and homestay.

Besides that, Safinah said the visitors will also have the chance to buy the seedling of vegetables, herbs, mushrooms and orchids, green herb and medication plants,

roselle and mushroom besides cosmetic and beauty products, health and sports equipment, health food and herb drinks, as well as traditional products and treatment services, among others.

Also there will be demonstrations on herb, mushroom and roselle-based products processing, preparation of herbs, health and ethnic food, herb and mushroom planting techniques, flower decoration and herb-based craftsmanship, as well as massaging techniques and traditional treatments of the various ethnic groups.

To make it more fun, she said, various competitions will also be held including herb/vegetable colouring contest, local herb/vegetable drawing contest, herb/vegetable eating contest, celik herba quiz and so on.