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Catch the Grand Tamu

Kota Belud should really be visited today, as the Tamu Besar or "Grand Bazaar" is being held there. The 'Tamu' is Sabah's traditional open market and on this day, everybody who are involved in commerce during 'tamu day' will be at the tamu ground.

And on this day, too, the Bajau horsemen known as "Cowboys of the East" will come out dressed in their traditional best and ride their extravagantly decorated horses, complete with a jingling bell collar.

Anyway, today the celebration will start early. There is a community telematch at the town padang where participants will pit their strength and prowess against one another for sheer fun.

At 8am, the Government exhibition booths will open and you can look at their services and functions in serving the community.

If you like looking at interesting poultry, look up the Serama Chicken competition. This is where you will see cute miniature chicken strutting their stuff.

Later at 1.30 today, you can look up the Maggie cooking competition and get a new recipe for your own dining table, maybe. These competitions are always fun to watch.

Cultural performances will be carried out later this evening at 7.30pm. This can be entertaining, so linger awhile and watch what they have to offer.

Tomorrow at the Tamu Ground, there will be a Betitik musical instrument show at about 8am and 15 minutes later the first round of the Serimpak beauty queen contest will start. A bevy of beauties will be on stage showing off their costume and their beauty.

This will be followed by an Isun-Isun group performance and a cultural show.

At 9am, The Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Community Development

And Consumer Affairs Datuk Seri Panglima Hj. Yahya Hussin will arrive.

He will be greeted by Mohd. Najib Muntok the organizing Chairman of the Tamu Besar Kota Belud 2007 and District Officer of Kota Belud.

Soon afterwards the guest of honour will present his speech.

The highlight of the event will be at 2pm; the Bajau Horsemen performance will start. This colourful presentation is really breathtaking and should be the highlight of the tamu besar.

Later at 3pm the Buffalo race will commence followed by the Horsemen Tug of War. These events should not be missed.

Besides these interesting programs, the tamu besar is an attraction because of its huge cultural and traditional implications.

It shows full integration of the people of Sabah; the rapport and friendship among the people fostered since time immemorial, still very much alive among them today.

So if you are at the vicinity with your tourists at the moment, drop by Kota Belud and enjoy the colours and excitement.



By ANNA VIVIENNE



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