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Celebrating the Cabbage

By ANNA VIVIENNE

Kundasang Ranau is well known for its fresh vegetables; more so for its fresh cabbages. It is well known for the main road vegetable stalls selling various types of highland vegetables including the veritable cabbage.

Wholesalers are also found in rows of wooden stalls where bulk buyers can come and pick their favourite vegetables to sell elsewhere.

If you are at the vegetable stands in the morning you will see pick up trucks laden fully with harvest from the farms nearby the valley delivering their goods to the stalls. Passing tourists and travellers also stop by the road for shopping at a good bargain.

There are numerous vegetable farms in Kundasang with produces ranging from capsicums to asparagus to onions .. among many others.

Vegetables are the live blood of the people here. It is one of their main source of income

And because of this, they celebrate their main source of economy with a festival called, "Pesta Kubis" or Cabbage Festival.

They have been celebrating this festival for several years now and this year round; they will celebrate this on Nov 16 and 17.

According to the spokesperson for the event the Suatin Mayor the day will start with a programme for children on Nov16.

"There will be a drawing competition for children starting at 10am. We want to encourage and ensure that children are included in the celebration, so we encourage them to join in the drawing contest," he says adding that the event will be held in Kundasang Township's Cultural Stage.

"At 2pm, there will be a bamboo orchestra performance. Three orchestra group will take turn performing. The orchestra Kinabalu Merdu Sound, Kundasang Bamboo Sound and Kerakit Bamboo Orchestra."

"The performance will last for three hours. After the performance, there will be a singing competition later in the evening. The competition will comprise of two groups; adult and children," he says.

According to him, several participants for both categories have already signed up and he believes that it will be a roaring success.

He says prizes will be quite attractive as they include cash and gifts from sponsors.

"Next day, prizes to the best Vegetable Farm Management Competition will be held. Several farms are now being evaluated," he says.

"Thirteen Village Development and Security Committee (JKKK) booth will also compete for the best booth. They will be judge by their presentation skills and the vegetable's freshness," he says.

The guest of honour who will officially launch the event, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Development Datuk Masidi Manjun, will arrive at about 10am.

He will launch the event and witness the performance of Sabah's own artist Comedienne-Actor - Singer Abu Bakar Ellah.

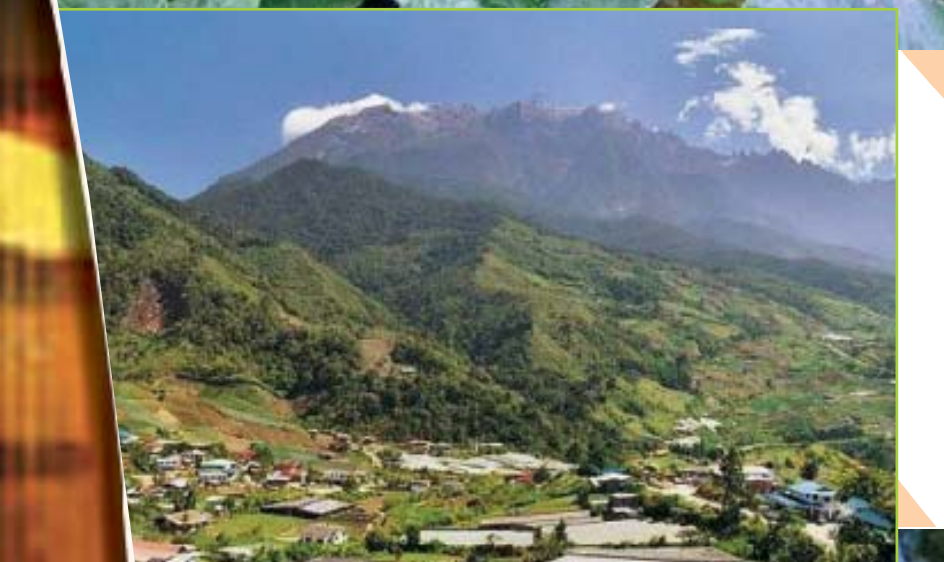
Later that evening revellers can hope to be entertained by AF star Felix, Gangstarz Infnit and a gaggle of local artists.

"That is not all. On Nov 18, Four Wheel Drives enthusiasts can witness a race by Four Wheels race participants," Suatin says.

If you are not too familiar with Kundasang, well, it's located six kilometres away from Kinabalu National Park and is the closest village to Mount Kinabalu.

It is about 60 kilometres from Kota Kinabalu and will take you two hours to drive there.

You should really go there during the Cabbage Festival. Visit Kundasang for its festival and for the attractive views and the various interesting sites you can visit there.



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