

Malaysia Day and Birthday of Sabah's Head of State 16th September 2008



Malaya gained its independence on the 31st August 1957 but Malaysia Day marks the joining together of Malaya (now Peninsula Malaysia), North Borneo (now Sabah), Sarawak and Singapore to form Malaysia on 16th September 1963. As this year the occasion falls in the Ramadan fasting month, celebrations have been postponed to the 11th October 2008.

This day is also the Birthday of Sabah's Head of State and is a public holiday.

Figos Borneo Football Cup, October-November 2008



In October and November, the inaugural Figos Borneo Football Cup will take place at the Likas Stadium, Kota Kinabalu, seeing amateur teams within Australasia compete in 5 football match categories: Under 12, 14, 16, 18 and Veterans. Aiming to provide budding and senior footballers with the opportunity to play in a well organised tournament against teams from different countries and cultures! Currently, football-loving teams from Australia, Brunei, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur have already signed up to take part in this exciting event, and the organisers are inviting local teams from Sabah to participate! What are you waiting for, check out their website www.borneo-footballcup.com or call 088 249002 for information and updates!

In October The Borneo International Marathon



Registration is still open for this October's Borneo International Marathon, an event that has already pulled in some interesting participants for a challenging race. Among the runners who have registered for the event are Nathan Kiplimo from Kenya (winner of the Ambank KL Marathon), British elite runner Mark Williams and Singaporean Chan Meng Hui, who at age 78 is their oldest participant so far. In the half-marathon races, marathon celebrity Ms. Jenap M Said, the noted "catwoman" of South East Asia who has a penchant for running in full catwoman costume and Malaysia's most popular blogger Kenny Sia will be among the runners. If the full marathon and the half marathon sound a little daunting, there is also a 10km run and for children, 800m and 400m runs. Registration forms and information are available at www.borneomarathon.com.

Editorial error

In the back page of the August 2008 issue, photos of Mabul water Bungalow Resort were used to accompany the article on Sipadan Water Village. We apologise to the management of both resorts for this unsightly error and for any inconvenience it may have caused.

NEWS

Sabah Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Visits Australia

The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah, YB Datuk Masidi Manjun, went on a 5 day- working trip to Australia, namely to the cities of Brisbane and Sydney. The Minister's trip was primarily a market development and business meetings with Airlines and wholesale tourism partners. This is the first business trip led by the Minister to Australia, a market that is fast growing for Sabah. During the visit, YB Datuk Masidi expressed his sincere appreciation for the trust and confidence by the Australian agents in promoting Sabah as a choice of holiday destination to their clients. He also voiced the commitment of our Ministry of Tourism to continue our joint promotions and marketing with the agents through the Sabah Tourism Board. The joint promotions would be mainly in embarking on familiarization trips to Sabah for the frontliners and product managers of both wholesale and retail agents in Australia.



Cebu Pacific Starts Direct Manila-Kota Kinabalu Service

Cebu Pacific (CEB), the Philippines' leading carrier to the ASEAN region inaugurated its direct service from Manila to Kota Kinabalu in July. Using CEB's brand new Airbus A319 aircraft, the flight departs from Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 at 4.40pm and arrives at Kota Kinabalu International Airport at 6.30pm. The return flight leaves for Manila at 7.00pm and arrives at 8.50 pm. The flight operates every Monday and Friday. CEB is the only Filipino carrier operating this route and Kota Kinabalu is the second city that CEB flies to in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur.



Nokia Philippines Picks Sabah

The Nokia Philippines Dealers' Convention was held in Kota Kinabalu last July, bringing in a total of 151 participants to the sunny shores of Sabah. Among the activities they enjoyed while they were here were team building activities on Sapi and Manukan Islands just 15 minutes away from the city. "It was most memorable experience", quipped one of the participants. Last year their convention was held in Macau.

