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## Press Statement

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014

For Immediate Release

### **MAYOR OF KUALA LUMPUR HOSTED KL DEEPAVALI FESTIVE FOR THE TOURISTS**

**Kuala Lumpur, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014** – Over 1,000 tourists have been invited to the KL Deepavali Festive, organized by DBKL's Tourism Unit. The festival is held at the Kuala Lumpur City Gallery, Dataran Merdeka from 11.00am till 2.00pm.

In the true spirit of 1Malaysia, the Deepavali Festival showcased to the tourists of the most important Hindu community celebration that has become part of the Malaysian cultural scene. At the festival, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur expressed his greetings and well wishes to the Hindus and invited the tourists to taste Indian traditional food and entertainment.

*“Deepavali is a festival of lights. It is among the most awaited festivals in Malaysia where the Hindu community are engrossed in offering prayers to the deities, showering gifts on their loved ones, sweets are made and distributed among friends and relatives. It is a very colourful festival and this is what we want to share with our tourists – a very rich and colourful festival”,* said Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Mayor of Kuala Lumpur.

Most food stalls at the festival manned by the staffs wearing beautiful glittering jewelry and traditional Indian outfits, such as chiffon saris. Many women and girls use Mehendi, which is a temporary henna decoration, on their palms to celebrate this joyous festival with the tourists.

The tourists get the chance to experience Deepavali celebration in KL and sample the food from a wide selection of stalls serving over 15 variety of traditional Indian food delicacies including; tosai, iteli, vegetarian chicken and mutton rendang, payasam, putu mayam, kesari, aatharasam, laddu, kuty urudae, jibili, apam, Indian sweets and others including rojak and chendol. Other than good food, there are host of activities for the tourists to get involved such as hand hanna printing, kolam, ceramic making and basket weaving.

To keep everyone entertained, there were activities and performances that included the DBKL Cultural Dance Troupe, Indian Classical and Modern and Bangra drummers.

The KL Deepavali Festival is organised by Tourism Unit, Kuala Lumpur City Hall with support and sponsorships from ARCH KL City Gallery, Federal Hotel, Seri Pacific Hotel, Star Points Hotel, Hotel Royal, Dataran Underground, The KL Bird Park, KL Hop-On-Hop-Off and Ablemen.

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