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COVID-19 OUTBREAK

'STIMULUS PACKAGE WILL BOOST TOURISM'

Ministry looking at type of aid to be channelled to industry players, says minister

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THE Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry will make full use of the government's economic stimulus package to boost the tourism sector in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Its minister, Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi, as quoted by Bernama, said Malaysia's tourism sector was suffering heavy losses in revenue due to cancellation of hotel bookings, holiday packages and flights.

"We are facing a drop in tourist



Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi

arrivals, which, in turn, has an impact on economic revenue. Nevertheless, the ministry will make full use of the economic stimulus package to cushion the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak and assist those who need it.

"We are looking at the type of aid to be channelled (to tourism industry players). It could in the form of funding. As for the quantum, we will find out the details," he said here yesterday.

Earlier, Mohamaddin was awarded an honorary doctorate in Tourism Management and Hospitality by Lincoln University College at its convocation here.

He received the award from the university college's pro-chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Bibi Florina Abdullah.

The government imposed a travel ban on visitors from several provinces in China following the Covid-19 outbreak, which was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei province, China, in December.

Last Friday, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said the economic stimulus package, to be announced by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Feb 27, was a form of aid for