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Aiming for wide base participation

THE MALAYSIAN Equine Council was officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October 1992. The Prime Minister is the patron of the council while Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is its president. The council acts as the catalyst or agent to facilitate integrated and coordinated development in all aspects of equine sports and activities.

Membership to the council comprise government entities, statutory bodies and the various equestrian and professional organisations. They are the Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysian Armed Forces, Royal Malaysian Police Force, City Hall of Kuala Lumpur, Totalisator Board of Malaysia, National Stud Farm, Malayan Racing Association, Malayan Amateur Racing Association, Persatuan Sabah Bajau Bersatu, Malaysian Equine Veterinary Association and the Equestrian Association of Malaysia.

The council has taken up various tasks with the aim of achieving a wide base participation in the sport, in particular, to introduce riding activities to school children. It plans to set up public riding facilities at strategic areas in the country, as well as maximise the use of existing facilities.

To date it has assisted in the setting up of three public riding centres located in the Turf Clubs in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Penang. It has also identified Universiti Teknologi and Universiti Putra Malaysia as additional centres for the wide-base participation of the sport.

Priority will also be given to promising young talents to develop their skills for the highest level of international participation. To this end, the council has purchased 26 showjumpers and eight dressage horses for athlete development, perhaps the only country in the region to do so. Malaysian riders have won in international competitions held in other countries.

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