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Name for national flag to be announced by PM soon

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SHAH ALAM, Fri. - After being known as just the Malaysian Flag for 40 years, the white and red striped national flag is going to have its own name.

The name for the national flag will be announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a special ceremony in conjunction with the country's 39th National Day anniversary soon.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said today the Cabinet has given its nod to have the flag named and recently picked the appropriate name for it.

She declined to give any indication about the name saying it would not be proper as the Prime Minister would be making the announcement.

Zaleha was speaking to reporters after unveiling the logo for the Flag Flying Motothon 1997 near here today. The four-day event beginning Aug 25 is organised by the National Unity Department in co-operation with Government departments and the private sector. Sponsors include Edaran Otomobil Malaysia, Usaha Sama Proton DRB, Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua, Edaran Modanas, Nestle Malaysia, Mobikom Malaysia and TV3.

She said 135 national cars and motorcycles would be used in the event involving a total of 280 participants from six teams, three from the peninsula and one each from Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

"All the teams, from the Northern Zone, Eastern Zone, Southern Zone, Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan will leave their respective zones heading towards Kuala Lumpur on Aug 25 and are expected to arrive in the capital on Aug 28.

"The objective is to further boost patriotic spirit among members of the public and love for the nation," she said adding that only national cars and motorcycles would be used.

Zaleha also urged Malaysians to start flying the national flag from their homes, offices, shops and vehicles as a show of their love for the country and respect for the national flag.

The Ministry, she said, was very happy with the response from the public so far as many homes, including those in villages, business premises and vehicles, including motorcycles have started flying the flag.

She was, however, unhappy that, according to reports, some flags mounted on cars were stolen.

"I would like to suggest that those caught stealing the flag should be made to do community work like helping in homes for the aged or orphans," she said.

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