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Biggest ever multi-racial parade on Dec 31

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Malaysians of all races and ages will participate in the nation's largest parade ever, Colours of Malaysia, at Dataran Merdeka on Oct 16.

The parade is one of the many activities held in conjunction with the two year celebration, Malaysia's Centennial Towards A New Millennium.

"The parade is to showcase the multi-racial society we have to foreigners," Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said today.

Colours of Malaysia will be held on the eve of the World Formula One Championship finals and Abdul Kadir hoped that all involved in the prestigious event would attend.

"Even Cabinet Ministers and Menteris Besar are expected to take part in the parade," Abdul Kadir told a Press conference after launching the Malaysia's Centennial Towards A New Millennium.

The two-year celebration to showcase the country's achievements in the past 100 years will be launched on Aug 30 at Stadium Nasional in Bukit Jalil.

It will replace the National Day flag-raising ceremony usually held at Dataran Merdeka.

Abdul Kadir said the celebration would include the official opening of the Petronas Twin Towers at KLCC on National Day and the annual parade at Dataran Merdeka.

"We will launch the Domestic Tourism Campaign in September and officially open the national theatre, Istana Budaya, the International Tourism Campaign and Formula One championship.

"Next year we will have the shopping carnival where we hope goods will not only be free of import tax but also sales tax," Abdul Kadir added.

Events on the 1999, 2000 and 2001 calendars will be "co-opted" and promoted as part of the centennial celebration, including the National Day parade, the National Language and Arts Month, Malaysia Fest, shopping carnivals, the Formula One race, the Golf World Cup, the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition and Le Tour de Langkawi.

Abdul Kadir said new events would also be introduced over the next two years. These will include Expo Malaysia, Malaysian Heritage and Cultural Festival, National Water Festival, Seasonal Shopping Carnival and Fruit Fest.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to launch Malaysia's Centennial celebrations at the stadium.

He is then expected to place a message in a time capsule that will be opened in 2099.

Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers will join him via video conferencing in launching the celebration at the State level.

Free passes for the launching of Malaysia's Centennial are available at tourist information kiosks in the Klang Valley, STAR-LRT ticket booths and several shopping complexes including Sungei Wang Plaza.

They can also be obtained from the Ministry's office on the 36th floor of Menara Dato Onn, Putra World Trade Centre.

The information kiosks are located on the second floor concourse of PWTC, Dataran Putra on Jalan Raja, Matic on Jalan Ampang, the Kuala Lumpur KTM station and the Central Market.

Flyers have also been distributed in the Klang Valley and passes given

to motorists using the PLUS highways.

The free passes also allow those present at the stadium to win lucky draw prizes such as a Proton Satria GTI, Modenas Jaguh and Kriss motorcycles.

Artistes performing on the night include Datuk M. Daud Kilau, Jefri Din, Siti Nurhaliza, Noraniza Idris, KRU, Juliana Banos and Elite.

The celebration is aimed at instilling love for the nation among the people.

It is also to increase world attention towards Malaysia's achievements and stimulate world interest in Malaysia so that the country will be able to attract 6.7 million foreign tourists next year earning revenue of about RM15.7 billion.

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