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Foundation to keep spirit of 'Malaysia Boleh' alive

Chok Suat Ling

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Formula Malaysia Foundation, to be launched soon, will help Malaysians scale greater heights and keep the "Malaysia Boleh" spirit alive.

It will fund and promote activities that serve as an inspiration for the people.

Chairman of the Formula Malaysia campaign Datuk Hassan Harun said the foundation, to be launched on Dec 31, would also help enhance the image of the country worldwide.

He cited Datuk Azhar Mansor's record-setting voyage around the world as an example of an inspirational activity.

"There is currently RM12 million in the fund and we hope to increase it with the help of corporations interested in helping us promote this cause."

He said the foundation would also organise activities that encapsulate the "Malaysia Boleh" spirit like, for instance, holding contests.

"We are now formulating the foundation's constitution and will be forwarding details to corporations soon," he told reporters after attending a function at the Education Ministry.

The Formula Malaysia campaign, spearheaded by eight corporations - Edaran Otomobil Nasional Berhad, Southern Bank Berhad, SungeiWay Group, Sapura Holdings Sdn Bhd, YTL Corporation Bhd, Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Berhad and KUB Malaysia Bhd - was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Putrajaya on Sept 15.

A contest, offering a total of RM2.4 million in prize money, was also launched.

The contest, which is open to all Malaysians, requires participants to capture the spirit of "Malaysia Boleh" and the formula of the country's success in essays, on film, through art, photographs, songs or the design of a website.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak launched the school-level contest at the ministry today.

Hassan said for the school-level contest, there was a total of RM560,000 in prize money to be won.

"The requirements are the same as the national-level contest. Students of primary and secondary schools, and private and public higher educational institutions can participate.

"They must successfully depict their pride for the country's achievements and stability, and detail the formula or recipe behind Malaysia's success.

"Entry forms will be distributed to schools and institutions soon. All entries must have the school stamp, or that of the respective institution."

For primary school pupils, the first prize for each category is RM5,000, second prize RM3,500, third prize RM1,500 and 100 consolation prizes of RM200 each.

For secondary school students, the first prize winner for each category will walk away with RM7,000; RM5,000 each for second; RM3,000 each for third prize, and 100 consolation prizes of RM200 each.

For students of higher educational institutions, the first prize for each category is RM15,000, second RM10,000 each, and RM5,000 each for

third prize, and 100 consolation prizes of RM200 each.

The closing date is Feb 15 next year. "The national-level contest closes earlier. We are giving students more time as the majority have to prepare for examinations at the year end."

He said there had been overwhelming response to the national-level contest.

Najib lauded the contest, saying that it would help create awareness in schoolchildren on their role in the country's development.

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