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2-day congress to discuss progress of Malays

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THE progress of the Malays and how they are going to maintain their interests in the 21st century are among the key issues that will be discussed at the two-day congress being organised by the Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (DPMM).

DPMM president Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli said 1,200 participants are expected to attend the congress themed, "Safeguarding the Malays' dignity and interest in the current globalisation".

"Every organisation and individual, including those representing the opposition political parties and non-governmental organisations are welcome to participate," he told a press briefing in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Tajudin said participants will also have the opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a dialogue at the second day of the congress.

The Prime Minister is expected to deliver the keynote address at the official opening of the congress and is also scheduled to officiate the closing.

Tajudin said the congress is being organised to evaluate the progress achieved by the Malays in various fields and identify the weaknesses and strong points of the Malays before the coming of the next century.

"Through such discussion, we will be able to identify the necessary steps to be taken by the Malays so that they will be able to withstand the challenges in the next millennium," he said.

Tajudin said the DPMM's secretariat for the Malays' economic agenda will undertake the task to ensure that there will be a follow-up to every resolution and recommendation concluded during the two-day congress.

"We will submit the resolutions to the Government and it is the chamber's aspiration to ensure that the resolutions will not end at the congress but will see a follow-up to the recommendations," Tajudin added. He said participants of the congress will discuss four main topics which are religion, culture, economic and education.

First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin is among those invited to present their working papers during the congress. Daim is expected to speak on the subject of the Malays' involvement and their direction in the current global economy.

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