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Passes for launch of centennial do

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Free passes for the launching of Malaysia's Centennial Towards A New Millennium celebrations at the Stadium Nasional Bukit Jalil on Aug 30 will be available from Saturday.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry deputy secretary-general Tengku Datuk Alaudin Tengku Abdul Majid said 150,000 passes would be available from 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 sixth 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.

The event will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. The centennial celebrations will continue until Aug 31, 2001.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to launch a time capsule at the ceremony, containing a message from him to the future generation.

The capsule, to be kept in a place to be identified later, will be opened on Aug 30, 2099.

Tengku Alaudin told a Press conference that 500,000 flyers would be distributed in the Klang Valley of which only 40,000 could be exchanged for passes to the launching ceremony.

He said the passes would be issued on a first-come-first-served basis.

"The same rule applies for passes available at the other outlets," he said, adding that 10,000 invitations had been issued to guests.

He later signed a memorandum of understanding with The New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad and China Press on their status as the official media for the event.

New Straits Times news editor Balan Moses signed on behalf of NSTP while China Press was represented by its general manager, Ng Beng Lai.

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

Tengku Alaudin also received a contribution of 150,000 free passes printed by China Press.

Artistes including Datuk M. Daud Kilau, Jefri Din, Siti Nurhaliza, Noraniza Idris, KRU, Juliana Banos and Elite will perform at the launch.

Several major events are being lined up for Malaysia's centennial celebrations over the next two years. They include the National Tourism Summit, Expo Malaysia, Malaysian Heritage and Cultural Festival, Le Tour de Langkawi and National Water Fest next year.

The celebrations are aimed at instilling love for the nation among the people, increasing awareness and world attention towards Malaysia's achievements and stimulating world interest to visit Malaysia while advancing the nation's tourism industry.

The other objective is to attract 6.7 million foreign tourists next year and earn revenue of about RM15.7 billion.

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