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Convoy to boost bid for Games

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Ten units of Perodua's soon-to-be launched new vehicle will be part of a 45-car convoy in the Kembara Rakan Muda 2006 programme aimed at promoting Malaysia's bid for the 2006 Asian Games.

The convoy, scheduled to be flagged off by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad next month, will traverse all 11 States in the peninsula.

The ceremony at the Putra World Trade Centre here on June 14 will involve 72 students of the International Islamic University. The convoy will make stops at 14 designated checkpoints in major towns and cities.

Various promotional programmes will be held at each checkpoint throughout the duration of the 17-day programme which ends on July 1.

The programme also aims to collect one million signatures to support Malaysia's bid to host the 2006 Games.

From June 14, booths will be set up in major shopping complexes, district offices and Government agencies in the places to be visited by the convoy.

The signatures will be presented to the Prime Minister on Aug 1.

Announcing this when launching the programme at IIU's main campus in Gombak today, Youth and Sports Ministry Rakan Muda Varsity Sector director Wasitah Mohd Yusof said Kembara Rakan Muda 2006 was initiated by the IIU undergraduates themselves.

"The main objective of the project is to involve students in Malaysia's aspirations to host the 2006 Games," she said.

IIUM Students Affairs deputy rector Prof Dr Sidek Baba, who was also present, said the programme would help prepare students for working life.

Such programmes, he said, would help reduce the generation gap between undergraduates and leaders in society at whom most of their youthful idealism would be directed.

"Idealism must be rooted in reality - understand the problems of society so that you can balance between the two."

As such, he asked students to write journals of their travels from various perspectives, like the socio-economic problems they encountered or the development recorded by the many major towns and cities which they would be visiting.

At a Press conference later, Wasitah said a status paper on the formation of the upcoming Cabinet Committee on Youth Development was currently being prepared by the ministry.

On the revival of the Youth Consultative Council announced by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein on Sunday, she said officials from the ministry would meet at the end of the month on the matter.

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