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Gathering of 10,000 youths

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - More than 10,000 youths from all over the country are expected to attend the "New Millennium Patriotism" gathering organised by the Malaysian Youth Council at Stadium Malawati in Shah Alam on Feb 18.

MYC president Saifuddin Abdullah said although the stadium had a seating capacity for only 10,000, the organisers expected the turnout to be more as the invitation was open to all State and district youth councils, national youth bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The gathering is open to all youths in the country, irrespective of race and religion, as the gathering is to inculcate and instil in people the spirit and meaning of patriotism.

Saifuddin told a Press conference at the MYC office that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would address the gathering.

The event will be the official launch of its "New Millennium Patriotism" programme it has been holding on a small scale nationwide since Jan 1, 1999.

Saifuddin said the programme included seminars, forums and ceramah.

"Our main aim is to encourage youths to express the spirit of patriotism in concrete ways for the development of the nation and the people."

He said there was a need for the spirit of patriotism to be instilled in the young generation, for the sake of the country, so that its good name would be upheld.

A number of programmes have been lined up for the Feb 18 gathering including a performance by a 1,500-member choir group and this is expected to enter the Malaysia Book of Records. The record achieved so far was a 1,200-member choir.

There will also be promotional campaigns on the gathering by the Federal Territory Vespa Association of Scooter Owners, youth council motorcycle clubs from Kubang Pasu and M9 bikers from Seremban.

Their members will leave on Feb 16 in convoys from three points - Arau, Kota Baru and Johor Baru - and meet up in Shah Alam on Feb 18.

After the gathering, the MYC will hold more programmes in all districts and States but these would be more towards promoting patriotism through camps, expeditions, and competitions.

Saifuddin also launched the New Millennium Patriotism logo designed by two University Teknologi Mara (Uitm) students Mohamed Razeef Abdul Razak and Mohd Fairus Ismail.

The logo depicts a brush stroke in blue and red to represent the people and a yellow kris, indicating patriotism.

More details on the Feb 18 gathering are available from the MYC at 03-9732761/63

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