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Launch of special patriotic album

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - In an effort to give a fresh approach to the spirit of patriotism among the younger generation, a specially-produced patriotic album will be launched.

Malaysian Youth Council President Saifuddin Abdullah said the album would be different from commercial ones in terms of the choice of songs.

Carrying the theme Patriotisme Alaf Baru, the album would be a compilation of popular songs which have not previously been perceived as patriotic songs by the public.

He added that if one were to listen to the lyrics, there were elements of patriotism in the songs.

"The album has to be different from the stereotype patriotic albums. Most people associate patriotic songs with those which have a marching beat," said Saifuddin.

He said the songs, which are mostly pop songs, would be attractive to the young who would be able to relate to them.

"This is a new approach which we hope would get the young to understand the spirit of patriotism. We need to avoid the old stereotype approach in instilling patriotism," he said.

In the past, Saifuddin said, people used to hold endless lectures, talks and debates but in this new age, there was a need for a more effective approach.

The younger generation was not interested in listening to lectures but were more inclined towards programmes and activities like sports, camping and expeditions.

"I am not denying that lectures are important but they should not be the only means to help instil the spirit of patriotism."

Saifuddin also said the first music recording for the album would be made during MYC's Perhimpunan Patriotisme Alaf Baru on Feb 18 which would be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Four songs will be recorded live during the event. They are "Keranamu Malaysia" and MYC's "Belia Malaysia" which will be sung by a 1,500-member choir group, "Bang Boom Bang" by the group A to Z.

The album will also feature one new song, specially written by A to Z.

The album, consisting 12 songs, is a joint effort between the organisation and EMP Records, with the co-operation of the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry.

Saifuddin said the matter had already been discussed with Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir who had given his commitment to see through the project.

Abdul Kadir will also act as advisor in the production of the album.

Saifuddin said they had yet to decide when to launch the album.

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