

09 MAY 2001

Youth

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS TO INVOLVE FOREIGN YOUTHS

IPOH, May 9 (Bernama) -- The National Youth Day celebrations this year will also be participated by foreign youths and will be held for seven days compared with only one day in previous years.

Perak Exco for Manpower Development, Youth and Sports Datuk Jamal Nasir Rasdi said this year will be the first time Perak is hosting the annual event, which is held on May 15 every year.

The celebrations will start tomorrow with the climax on May 15, which is scheduled to be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Stadium Perak.

"The first programme is the Malaysian International Youth Festival (MIYF) at the Gunung Lang Recreation Park," he said at a media conference at his office, here today.

He said the MIYF will be participated by 300 youths with 150 foreigners from 26 countries.

"I hope this programme will eliminate the negative perception of Malaysia by the foreigners through the participation of the foreign youths who will be given the true picture of the situation here," he said.

He said the MIYF will be officiated by Raja Muda Perak Raja Nazrin Shah on Friday.

The programmes for the festival include an International Youth Forum, visits to welfare homes, Malaysian Food Fair, International Cultural Night, Youth Organisations Information Exhibition and a Youth Trade Expo from Saturday to Tuesday at Stadium Indera Mulia Ipoh.

"The exhibition and expo will also promote the SEA Games 2001 in Kuala Lumpur in September besides staging demonstrations on extreme sports such as riding the skate board, roller blades, wall climbing and go-karts.

"The Youth Run will be held on Sunday simultaneously with the SEA Games Torch Run," said Jamal Nasir.

Other activities will include the Volunteers Work Camp from Sunday to Wednesday at Kem Wajati Ulu Chepor which will be officiated by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishamuddin Tun Hussein on Tuesday.

The National Youth Day Convention will be held for three days beginning Sunday at Hotel Casuarina Park Royal, Ipoh. Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali is scheduled to officially open the convention on Tuesday.

Jamal Nasir said eight youth awards would be given away by Dr Mahathir at a function expected to be attended by 30,000 youths on Tuesday night.

He said those interested in joining the programmes for the National Youth Day celebrations could call the Programme Secretariat at telephone number 05-5499720.

-- BERNAMA

KAY AO