

11/02/2001

NGOs to help organise patriotism event

SHAH ALAM, Sat. - A total of 74 non-governmental organisations from across the country have agreed to become joint organisers for the forthcoming Perhimpunan Patriotisme Alaf Baru, which will be held on Feb 18.

Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) president Saifuddin Abdullah said he met representatives of the 74 NGOs today, who had pledged their commitment towards making the gathering a success.

"We are happy with the number of NGOs coming forward to participate in this event," he told reporters after the meeting at Stadium Malawati today.

The NGOs include Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (Abim), 4B Youth Movement, Malaysian Hindu Youth Council, Orang Asli Youth organisation, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, and Sikh Youth organisation.

Optimistic about the turnout for the event, he said they were now expecting more than their initial target of 10,000 people.

Saifuddin also said among the highlights would be a Patriotisme Alaf Baru message to be delivered by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, as well as a pledge which would be delivered by the youths.

He said the pledge would be a symbol of their commitment to defend and maintain the independence and sovereignty of the country. "The pledge will be signed by youth leaders and presented to the Prime Minister as a symbol of the youths' loyalty towards the country."

Saifuddin said MYC will also introduce a new clarion call for the nation, besides the popular "Merdeka" and "Malaysia Boleh" slogans.

Meanwhile, he also announced that there would be a convoy of vehicles from Vespa Malaysia, motorcycle clubs, Kereta Mini Malaysia and Kelab Putra Kuala Lipis.

The two-day convoy, beginning Feb 16, will see three teams starting their journey to Kuala Lumpur from three different venues - Alor Star, Johor Baru and Kota Baru.

(END)