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Rolls-Royce treat in October

Cheah Chor Sooi in London

SOME 90 Rolls-Royces of different periods and designs will make their way to Malaysia for a tour of the country in October.

During the 18-day event, which starts on Oct 25, the cars will be on display in various parts of the country.

The convoy, to be led by a 1909 Silver Ghost owned by Londoner Tony Dyas, will be exhibited at the Sepang International Circuit, Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Malacca, Cameron Highlands and Penang.

The cars belonging to members of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club (RREC), will be shipped to Malaysia from Britain and other parts of Europe, Australia and the United States. This will be the club's second tour after Jordan in 1999.

To date, 220 enthusiasts in 90 cars have signed on.

Tour chairman Peter Cameron said the Malaysia 2001 Tour was aimed at promoting the country as one of the region's premier tourist destinations.

"I find Malaysia to be a truly wonderful country with a vast tourist potential, and we hope our little contribution will help the country gain good publicity," said Cameron.

"Malaysia has advanced far more than any developing country but remains unnoticed."

Cameron lived in Malaysia for 10 years between 1977 and 1987 while serving as Standard Chartered Bank (M) Bhd general manager.

For the past three years, he has been visiting Kuala Lumpur almost every month in his capacity as the chairman of consultant firm Phoenix Corporate Risk Management Ltd.

With his in-depth knowledge and love for Malaysia, he first suggested the Malaysian tour in October 1999 and it soon turned into a "pet project".

"Malaysia is an ideal location for our members to take a welcome break from their hectic routine," said Cameron.

"Towards this end, we have invited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to join us for a drive around the F1 circuit and Putrajaya.

"The Regent of Selangor, too, will take part in his own Rolls-Royce."

All the participants, said Cameron, have pledged a certain sum of money for charity.

In addition, money will be raised from gala events, the sale of souvenir programme sponsorships, joyrides for the public as well as special photography sessions.

The proceeds will go to the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Hospice Malaysia, the Selangor Cheshire Home and the Police Welfare Association.

Cameron and RREC deputy chairman Eri Heinz Heilijgers will be in Malaysia for two to three weeks beginning March 25 to conduct the route map exercise and finalise various arrangements such as landing, clearance, Customs formalities, and meetings with the police, Tourist Development Corporation and the Transport Ministry.

For more information of the tour, visit the RREC website at www.rrec.co.uk.