

08/04/2001

Rolls-Royce cars to take part in 18-day tour

Jalina Joheng

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - An estimated 100 Rolls-Royces from different periods and of various designs will be on display in various parts of the country in October.

They are being brought here by the Britain-based Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club (RREC) for an 18-day tour of the country.

The event, which will begin on Oct 25, is aimed at promoting Malaysia as a tourist paradise besides raising funds for charity.

With a total of 220 participants from across Europe, Australia and the United States, the convoy will be making its way to, among others, Malacca, Cameron Highlands, Penang, Kangar, Kuala Kangsar and Lumut.

The Rolls-Royces would also be exhibited at the Sepang International Circuit, Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Malacca, Cameron Highlands and Penang.

Club chairman Peter Cameron said the route map was still being finalised.

Asked if there would be Malaysian participants, Cameron said there were several Rolls-Royce owners here who had shown interest in the event.

"In fact, I will be meeting with the Royal Vintage and Classic Car Club president Tengku Adnan Tengku Burhanuddin Besar and The Regent of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah soon to discuss several issues on the event," he added.

The club also plans to have joy rides and photography sessions to raise funds for various charitable bodies.

Cameron said proceeds would go to the Association of the Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti), Hospice Malaysia and the Selangor Cheshire Home.

He said participants had pledged a certain sum of money for charity.

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

"Towards the end of the event, we have invited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to join us for a drive around the F1 circuit in Sepang and Putrajaya," he said.

The cars belonging to 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.

"Malaysia is a wonderful country with vast tourist potential and we hope with this event, it would help the country gain publicity. It is sad to that most Europeans and people from the UK have not heard about Malaysia."

Cameron lived here 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 here almost every month in his capacity as chairman of Phoenix Corporate Risk Management Ltd.

Cameron and RREC deputy chairman Eri Heinz Heilijgers have been in the country since 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. Those wishing to have more information of the tour, can visit the RREC website at www.rrec.co.uk.