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10 students to be chosen for UN session

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Ten teenagers are expected to join the National Unity and Social Development Ministry's delegation to the United Nations' Special Session on Children starting Sept 19 in New York.

The students are expected to take part in a forum with other children from around the world during the three-day session.

A ministry official said the 10, aged between 14 and 16, would be selected from schools nationwide.

The ministry had earlier planned to send two students to the special session, but strong support for children's issues by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had prompted the ministry to increase the number.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman will lead the Malaysian delegation to the special session.

Among those in delegation are officials from the National Unity and Social Development, Education and Health ministries, the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department and non-governmental organisations.

As a run-up to the session, the national-level "Say Yes For Children" campaign was launched by Dr Mahathir on Saturday.

The launch in Petaling Jaya was attended by more than 5,000 children. The "Say Yes for Children" campaign is part of a global crusade to enable children and adults to speak out on ways to improve the lives of children.

It is built on 10 imperatives.

They are "Leave no child", "Put children first", "Care for every child", "Fight HIV/AIDS", "Stop harming and exploiting children", "Listen to children", "Educate every child", "Protect children from war", "Protect the earth for children" and "Fight poverty: Invest in children".

Events lined up for the campaign include a forum at the Pusat Belia Antarabangsa in Cheras on Saturday, a walkathon for children and talkshows.

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