

09/02/2001

Website on gathering launched

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) today launched a website containing information and details on the Perhimpunan Patriotisme Alaf Baru, scheduled to be held on Feb 18.

MYC vice-president Norizan Sharif said the website - www.patriotisme.cjb.net - would also comprise a write-up on the spirit of patriotism and details on the Patriotisme Alaf Baru programme carried out at state and district levels on smaller scale since January 1999.

"Besides the website marking the official launch of our programme, the main objective of the gathering is to boost the spirit and meaning of patriotism among youths," he told reporters after launching the website at MYC office today.

The gathering, to be held at Stadium Malawati in Shah Alam, will be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

About 10,000 people are expected to attend the gathering.

Norizan said the idea of creating the website came about when the organisation found out that the spirit of patriotism among the younger generation was waning.

He felt it was crucial for the MYC to assist in educating the young about the importance of having that spirit.

Furthermore, he said, there was no website on that topic in the country.

"We want to take up a pro-active role and that is how the idea of creating a website came about," he said, adding that MYC would improve the design and content of the website from time to time.

Norizan said after the Perhimpunan Patriotisme Alaf Baru, MYC would include more information and issues pertaining to patriotism in the website.

It would also accept feedbacks or written comments from the public.

"We hope everyone from all walks of life will write to us so that we can include them in the website.

"We would like to have discussions on the declining patriotism among the younger generation, e-sovereignty and ways on how we can instill this spirit in others," he said.

Norizan said the gathering and its Patriotisme Alaf Baru programme were important because the country was facing a lot of challenges.

"There is the individualism aspect which is rampant now. If we cannot curb this, one will become selfish and forget about the interest of the country.

"There is also the issue of globalisation, liberation and the information communication technology that needed to be looked into," he said.

He added these challenges required patriotism to be instilled in the people especially the youths.

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