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Youths gather today in Malawati Stadium to pledge patriotism

SHAH ALAM, Sat. - About 10,000 youths from various bodies all over the country will congregate at the Perhimpunan Patriotisme Alaf Baru (Millennium Patriotism Assembly) at the Malawati Stadium tomorrow.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch the event, organised by the Malaysian Youth Council and the Selangor Youth Council, with the support of the Youth and Sports Ministry.

Radio Television Malaysia is expected to cover 'live' the event, which is aimed at instilling greater patriotism among youths.

At a Press conference in the stadium today, MYC president Saifuddin Abdullah said the participants include youths from 77 non-governmental organisations, youth associations, uniformed organisations and schools.

There will be a pledge of patriotism by the youths and an aerobics show, before eight-year-old Taufik Sazali recites a poem, while 1,000 silat exponents do a simulated group performance.

The highlight will be a choir performance by 2,000 schoolgirls and schoolboys, which will be a Malaysian record at a single event.

The choir will be led by Fuad Jailani and Norizan Sulaiman from the Language Institute in Lembah Pantai.

Also present at the conference were SYC president Datuk Rahman Pahlil, Erid Academy of Music and Performing Arts (EMP Records) managing director Erid Ridwan, and its business development manager Azlan Aziz.

A full dress rehearsal was held today at the stadium.

Rahman said that the event was organised to instill greater patriotism among youths especially the younger generation.

"We have passed through the times of Tunku (Malaysia's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-haj) to the present time of Dr Mahathir, who has done so much to develop the country with state-of-the-art facilities and information technology.

"However, we must not forget nationalism and patriotism, as we continue to live in a civilised society," said Rahman.

On tomorrow's event, Rahman said the programme will include patriotic songs tailored for the younger generation towards boosting Vision 2020 - of making Malaysia a fully developed nation by the year 2020.

"The songs will be upbeat, with a mix of pop and dangdut, but will not stray from its objectives of discipline, harmony, and love towards God, country and society," said Rahman, adding that similar events will be organised at district level in Selangor from May 18 in conjunction with Youth Day.

He called on recording companies to capitalise on the patriotic songs for the benefit of all Malaysians.

Responding to Rahman's call, Azlan said that his company will accept the challenge to record the patriotic songs performed during the mass gathering tomorrow, on an album soon.

Meanwhile, convoys of Mini cars and motorcycles departed from the towns of three states today to participate in tomorrow's assembly at the stadium.

Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yakob flagged off one convoy from Wisma Belia Indera Mahkota in Kuantan, Perak Youth Council chairman Nadzri Ismail flagged off the other from the State Youth and Sports complex in Ipoh and Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Isa Abdul Samad flagged off another at the Tuanku Abdul Rahman Stadium in Paroi.

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