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Youths from 40 countries coming for celebrations

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The National Youth Day celebrations, which falls on May 15, will also see the participation of youths from more than 40 countries and will be held for a week, compared with only one day in previous years.

Carrying the theme Kesukarelaan Pemangkin Perpaduan or "Volunteerism, the Catalyst for Unity", the event which will be held in Perak, is jointly organised by the Youth and Sports Ministry, the Malaysian Youth Council and the State government.

The celebrations, to start tomorrow with the climax on May 15, are scheduled to be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Stadium Perak.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the gathering at Stadium Perak was to witness the participation of 30,000 youths nationwide.

The announcement on the recipients for the National Youth Award, which is divided into six categories such as leadership, volunteerism and community, and innovation, would also be made at the event, he said.

The youth awards will be given away by Dr Mahathir.

The first programme is the Malaysian International Youth Festival at the Gunung Lang Recreation Park where 300 youths, including 150 foreigners from 26 countries, will participate.

The programmes for the festival, which will be officiated by the Perak Regent Raja Nazrin Shah on Friday, include an International Youth Forum, visits to welfare homes, Malaysian Food Fair, International Cultural Night, Youth Organisations Information Exhibition and a Youth Trade Expo from Saturday to Tuesday at Stadium Indera Mulia, Ipoh.

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