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Piala Perdana expected to be exciting

THE 17th Piala Perdana badminton tournament, which will see wives of elected representative from the various state associations vying for honours, will be held at the Indera Mulia Stadium in Ipoh next week.

The four-day event will be opened by Raja Muda Raja Nazrin Shah on Aug 7 while Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will close the tournament and present prizes on Aug 10.

The Perak Association of the Wives of Elected Representatives (Baiduri) chairman Datin Seri Kamariah Mokri said 12 associations would send a team of 12 players each for the tournament.

The associations are from Perak, Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca, Johor, Pahang, Sabah, Sarawak and Federal Territory.

She said the wives of Barisan Nasional elected representatives in Kelantan and Terengganu were also invited as observers.

Each team will be led by the wife of a Menteri Besar or Chief Minister while Bakti (the Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers Charity and Welfare Organisation) which represent the Federal Government.

Datin Seri Ena Ling, who is the wife of Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ling Liong Sik, will lead Bakti.

Kamariah said Bakti chairman, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, and her deputy, Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, could not play in the tournament due to health reasons.

"However, both of them are expected to come and give moral support to us," she told reporters after attending a rehearsal for the opening ceremony at the stadium yesterday.