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World's top riders for KL GP

THE Kuala Lumpur International Showjumping Grand Prix (KL Grand Prix) on April 4, 2003 will be the first-ever leg of the international circuit to be showcased in Asia.

Organisers Asiapromote Ventures Sdn Bhd said at least 25 of the world's top riders are expected to feature in the event which will be held at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

"I have just returned from the Showjumping World Cup final in Germany where I met with the world's top riders. They have assured us of their attendance," said Asiapromote Ventures Executive Director Wan Zaleha Radzi.

According to a Press release from Asiapromote, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has assured the Government's backing.

"The Government is committed to support the organisation of international equestrian events in the effort to make Malaysia the centre of equestrian excellence," Dr Mahathir said in a statement.

The KL Grand Prix will spearhead the drive for Malaysians to engage in sports where they stand a good chance of winning an Olympic medal.

"This event will definitely expose our riders to greater challenges and world standards," said Wan Zaleha.

"With the support of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), the Equestrian Association of Malaysia (EAM), the Government and the Kuala Lumpur City Council, this will become an important global event.

"It will be a three-day extravaganza for the whole family with a few surprises.

"Equestrian is fast gaining popularity among Malaysians. We expect a full house in April next year," added Wan Zaleha, an Asian Games silver medallist.