

20/07/2002

## Foreign students to celebrate Malaysia

Farrah Naz Karim

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - About 500 foreign students from various private colleges in the Klang Valley, who will be wearing their national costumes, are set to impress Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the One Nation We Care gathering here on July 27.

Representing some 50 countries from around the globe, the students will be a reflection of the Prime Minister's success in propelling Malaysia as a centre of academic excellence.

"Bukit Jalil National Stadium will bear witness to the tremendous progress of the education industry under Dr Mahathir's leadership, and we want him to know we appreciate it," Malaysian Association of Private Colleges (Mapco) representative, Professor Ong Kok Hai, said today.

Ong, who is also the International Medical University pathological sciences head, said there were over 32,000 foreign students studying in the country and this was due to the high standards of the local private education system.

Mapco is contributing RM10,000 for the event and the colleges' staff and student bodies will arrange for about 10,000 youths to attend the event.

Also present were the Young Entrepreneurs' Association of Malaysia (PUMM) deputy president Tatsun Hoi and Junior Chamber Kuala Lumpur Mandarin president Aric Ng to pledge the support of their organisations to the event.

William Tjahyono, 18, from Jakarta, said he would be taking part in the march-past and thus get the opportunity to see Dr Mahathir.

"Dr Mahathir is one of a kind. Even his looks exude the kind of charisma no one else has. If only I can thank him personally for making Malaysia a haven to live in.

"I only wish my country is half as peaceful as Malaysia. I have loved being here since leaving Indonesia after a major riot four years ago," he said.

In keeping with the Malaysian spirit of charity, the sponsors - Life Insurance Association of Malaysia, General Insurance Association of Malaysia and National Association of Malaysian Life Insurance and Financial Advisers - have pledged RM100,000 to two charitable organisations: the Malaysian AIDS Foundation and the National Cancer Council.

Themed "Our Vision for Tomorrow in Nation Building", the programme to be held from 6pm to 10.30pm aims to bring together Malaysians from all walks of life under one roof to celebrate the pride of being Malaysian.

"This is an opportunity for people to come with their families and loved ones to enjoy the carnival and show their loyalty to the country," said Liam president K.H. Chia.

There will also be some 40 exhibition booths of insurance companies and other sponsors at the event.

A lucky draw offering 100 prizes including a condominium and a Nissan 1.5 Sentra as the top prizes awaits patrons.

Raffle tickets will be on sale at Bukit Jalil Stadium at RM2 each. Admission tickets have been distributed to the public at major shopping malls around Klang Valley since July 1.

The event will be enlivened by rap group KRU, nasyid group Rabbani and Erra Fazira.

Tattoo marches and cultural shows, including a parade of Chinese

drummers, are also on the agenda.

Those present at the gathering will also sing the theme song, Satu Bangsa Kasih Semua.