

26 JUL 2002

Sports-Equestrian

MALAYSIA TO HOST INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING GP NEXT YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26 (Bernama) -- Malaysians will be treated to an experience of a lifetime as Kuala Lumpur becomes the host of the first ever event of its kind in Asia, the KL International Show Jumping Grand Prix 2003.

The event will be part of the top ranked international show jumping circuit and takes its place among the most prestigious equestrian events in the world.

Also known as the KL Grand Prix (GP), the event will feature more than 25 of the world's top riders and horses and will be staged in Putra Stadium at National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil over three days from April 4.

The date puts the KL Grand Prix in the crucial final stage of the international indoor GP circuit, said a statement today from the organisers, Asiapromote Ventures.

"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 at our event in 2003," the statement quoted Wan Zaleha Radzi, executive director of Asiapromote, as saying.

The event has the backing of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, the statement said.

"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 was quoted as saying.

-- BERNAMA

ERE AKT SK