

01 AUG 2003

Sports-Equestrian

EQUESTRIAN PREMIER CUP 2003 DRAWS 137 RIDERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Some 137 riders and 177 steeds are expected to take part in the equestrian Premier Cup Series 2003 at the Bukit Kiara Equestrian and Country Club Resort here from Aug 7 to Aug 10.

The 12-event competition offered total prize money of RM100,000, organising committee chairman Abdul Razak Latiff said today.

He said the committee had so far received 769 participation forms from 18 local clubs, three Singaporean clubs and one each from Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Sweden.

He said this year's participation had increased from that in 2001 which saw 102 riders and 121 horses taking part.

National equestrian rider Qabil Ambak Mohamad Fathil and siblings Quzier Ambak and Quzandria Nur were also expected to participate, he said.

"Such competitions give riders of various ages a chance to participate. It would also create public confidence that this sport is not only for the elite but also for the middle and lower classes," he said.

Abdul Razak said four countries -- Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Thailand -- would also use the competition to qualify for the World Cup Series in Stockholm, Sweden, scheduled for the end of the year.

He said the organisers would also invite 500 orphans to watch the competition, which would be free to the public.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to watch the competition on its last day.

-- BERNAMA

DSW AHH EMK SRI