

30 JAN 2003

Hishammuddin-Campaign

GOOD CHINESE RESPONSE FOR 1 MIL SIGNATURES CAMPAIGN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Students from institutes of higher learning and school-goers are the next main target for the Aman Malaysia One Million Signatures Campaign. The campaign thus far was well-received by Chinese organisations in Malaysia.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the campaign programme included colloquiums, forums, exhibition on Iraq and Palestine as well as an international convention.

Hishammuddin said the Malaysian memorandum and signatures would be handed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to be presented at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit on Feb 24.

"I believe efforts to collect more signatures will continue as the Chinese organisations managed to collect, in such a short time, 22,702 signatures," Hishammuddin said.

He spoke to reporters after the ceremony to distribute signature forms, for campaign, to leaders of Malaysian Chinese organisations.

The campaign, organised by the Pertubuhan Belia 4B and the Malaysian Association of Youth Clubs, is a protest against United States' threat to launch a war against Iraq.

Hishammuddin, the campaign patron, was confident that one million signatures would be collected before the mass gathering on Feb 23 at Stadium Nasional Bukit Jalil where the signatures would be handed to Dr Mahathir.

The event's originally venue was Dataran Merdeka. Hishammuddin hoped the new venue would attract more Malaysians - to gather and state their protest against the war issue that surpassed political, racial, gender and age boundaries.

Today, 1,038 Malaysian Chinese organisations gave their full support for the campaign and their signatures would exceed the targeted 200,000 signatures, the minister said.

Among the Chinese organisations present were the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Assembly Hall, and the Coffeeshop Owners' Association.

-- BERNAMA

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