

30/01/2004

70 yachts for Langkawi extravaganza

K.P. Waran

WITH 70 yachts from all over the world expected to compete in the Second Royal Langkawi International Regatta on March 1-6, the event is expected to be a sailing extravaganza.

Following the huge success of the inaugural event last year, the organisers have to date received confirmed entries of 45 boats and more are expected.

To be hosted by the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club (RLYC), this year's event is expected to be a bigger event as the Northeast winds are expected to pick up speed during the regatta.

Organising committee chairman Datuk Megat Najmuddin Megat Khas and the Commodore and principal founder member of the RLYC, Tunku Abdullah Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the man behind the event, have been burning the midnight oil to ensure the race gets off and is run without a hitch.

Individual sailors are also heading to Malaysia, having heard of the keen competition from last year's event.

Entries are expected from Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, the Caribbean and the United States.

The Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy and the RLYC Commodore's Cup are up for grabs again this year and seasoned sailors, cruising yachtsmen and others will compete in four gruelling races over a period of four days. There will be daily prizes for the various categories.

Last year's event, which was launched by then Acting Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, attracted a record 63 yachts and the organisers are looking to top that with at least 70 boats this year.

This year's prize presentation and closing ceremony will be graced by former Prime Minister and Patron of the RLYC Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Entrance fee is RM450 (US\$120) for the captain and one crew member and RM200 for each additional crew.