

14/02/2003

Join peace rally, Hishammuddin urges people

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The people were urged today to join the peace rally at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Feb 23, which will be attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the rally would be aired live over television, which he hoped would be viewed by foreign leaders who would be here for the Non-Aligned Movement Summit.

Hishammuddin also welcomed the participation of Opposition parties in efforts to oppose US intention to wage war on Iraq.

"I heard Pas is going to organise a demonstration in front of the US Embassy tomorrow. As long as the objectives are the same, we have no problem with that," he said.

He added that the Malaysians for Peace signature campaign and the rally were not political activities.

Hishammuddin, who is the patron of the Malaysians for Peace programme, was speaking after chairing the co-ordinating committee meeting here today.

Apart from representatives from the various non-governmental organisations, the meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre was also attended by Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting.

The Malaysians for Peace signature campaign is being jointly conducted by the 4B Youth Association and the Malaysian Association of Youth Clubs (MAYC).

Hishammuddin said to date, some 800,000 signatures had been submitted to 4B Youth.

"I am sure we have surpassed the one million mark, but some of the organisers have not submitted their collection to the 4B Youth."

Hishammuddin reminded those involved in the collection of signatures to hand the signatures over to the 4B Youth Association so that the event could go on record by Saturday.

He said more than 1,100 NGOs were involved in the campaign.