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Rally calling for peace in the world

Sajahan Waheed

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - More than 100,000 members of political bodies, youth associations, voluntary bodies and non-governmental organisations are expected to attend the Malaysian Peace Rally, organised by Umno Youth on Feb 23.

Its head Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the event was originally scheduled to be held at KLCC but the organising committee was looking for a bigger venue to accommodate the guests.

"During the event we will hand over a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad containing the signatures of an estimated million Malaysians calling for peace to prevail in the world.

"We want to get our message across that there must be peace and stability in the world. The memorandum will carry the aspirations of Malaysians who want to see a harmonious situation prevailing all over the world."

Hishammuddin, who is also the Youth and Sports Minister, said this at a Press conference after a meeting with NGOs on the programme at his ministry today.

He said the rally was part of the activities held in conjunction with the Non-Aligned Movement summit, to be held in Kuala Lumpur from Feb 20 to 25.

Hishammuddin said that the Peace Malaysia programme would feature a series of events to generate greater public awareness of the various conflicts in the world today.

Among the programmes include Peace Malaysia seminars and workshops, forum on the impact of war on women and children, colloquium on international law and pre-emptive rights and an exhibition on conflicts in Palestine and Iraq.

Hishammuddin said invitations have been sent to Opposition parties for them to take part in the event.

"Representatives from the DAP Socialist Youth attended our first meeting. Pas Youth had promised to come but did not make it. However, we will talk to them again and ask them to lend their support for the programme."

Meanwhile, on another issue, Hishammuddin said Singapore should wait for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to settle the dispute over Pulau Batu Putih and "not link everything under the sun" to the issue.

"If we are sincere, let the ICJ decide on who owns Pulau Batu Putih. There is no need to make all kinds of allegations."

He said this when asked to comment on a statement by Singapore Defence Minister Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam yesterday while answering a question in Parliament that Malaysia exploited the incident recently where a Singapore Navy patrol boat collided with the Dutch-registered container vessel ANL Indonesia.