

A more informal Youth Day

The main event this year at UPM will have less protocol, says Khairy

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PUTRAJAYA: The Youth and Sports Ministry has promised a more “authentic” yet relaxed national youth day celebration this year.

Its minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the main event at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) would have less protocol, making it more attractive to the young crowd that was expected at the university.

“If you remember, 10 years ago, the youth day celebration was held at Stadium Putra and the setting was very formal, where you listened to speeches from VIPs and then you had the award presentation.

“This time, we try to change. It will be unlike the gathering of a million youths which we did in previous years.

“We will make it more hip and relaxed. Our main VIP is the Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi) but he will not be eating in a VIP room, for example.

“He will be joining students and having his meal from the food trucks that will be at the event,” said Khairy at a media briefing on the upcoming celebration scheduled for May 15.

Khairy said the relaxed approach was because previously, youth day celebrations were always linked to youth associations, which made it less attractive for those who were not members of such associations.

“The celebration will be more genuine when it involves all youths and not just those who are already active in associations,” he said.

Last year, the three-day Putrajaya Youth Festival was organised in conjunction with the national youth day celebrations.

In 2011, the massive “1 Million Youth Gathering” was held in Putrajaya.

Although budget constraints

meant the celebration had to be stripped down this year, Khairy said there would still be a total of 228 programmes held across the country.

“We also have hundreds of programmes held at state and district levels.

“Although smaller, this way it will be able to reach out to more youths outside the Klang Valley,” said Khairy.

Among the activities scheduled for the main event at UPM are music performances, workshops, galleries, bazaars and food trucks as well as a talk show featuring youth artistes and successful entrepreneurs.

Estranged, Najwa Latif, Monologue and OAG are set to light up the performance stage at UPM.

There will also be the presentation of the National Premier Youth Awards, which recognises excellent youths who have contributed towards the country.



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Khairy Jamaluddin