

# Attracting more undergrads to Youth Day events



Youth and Sports Minister **Khairy Jamaluddin** says the **recent budget cut will not affect the quality of programmes** lined up for the National Youth Day celebrations this year. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

**PUTRAJAYA:** The National Youth Day celebrations in universities this year will attempt to draw a greater number of youth from various races and backgrounds.

“We hope to engage undergraduates, regardless of their race and social backgrounds, to come together and take part in the activities held in conjunction with the National Youth Day,” Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said.

He said this year’s celebrations would be nothing short of quality despite the recent budget cut, which had forced the ministry to optimise its limited fund.

“The quality will be just as good, if not better, with the programmes and events we have put together,” he said yesterday, adding that it was a good opportunity for the ministry to try a new approach.

“We anticipate the participation of

more undergraduates than in previous years, as we are taking the celebrations to them.”

Khairy said the celebrations would also be open to others.

The budget recalibration in January saw the government slashing its allocation, which forced the annual National Youth Day festival this year to move out from its venue here.

The National Youth Day, which has been held here since 2010, will be held in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang, this Sunday.

The celebrations began one week earlier on Monday with 288 programmes conducted throughout the country.

Khairy said the UPM event, also part of Rakan Muda’s “Jelajah Kampus” programme, would also be organised in other campuses nationwide.

He said this year’s theme, “The

Future is Now”, was apt because the presence of youth in the country’s development must be recognised.

“There are two messages from the theme. First is for the older generation to start developing the youth and second, is to tell that the youth are ready.”

Activities lined up for the celebrations include Warna-Warni Belia talent showcase by the Malaysian Youth Council and the annual National Premier Youth Awards.

“Every programme will feature segments such as sports, arts and others,” said Khairy.

“There will be five categories for the National Youth Premier Awards — youth, men, women, gold teens and special award.”

There will also be bazaars, food trucks and workshops, as well as performances by local musicians.