

It's marvellous, says the PM

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MALACCA, Sat. — The consensus on this year's National Day celebration from the Prime Minister and other Federal and State leaders is "it was marvellous."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the celebrations were impressive.

"The best part of course was the large turnout of people who showed so much enthusiasm.

"You can feel a resurgence of nationalist feelings and it is good to see all races participating in the celebrations," he said after visiting the Independence Memorial here.

Dr Mahathir described the Memorial as a worthwhile project which has been tastefully done up.

"It will be very useful in recording and preserving all the events leading to independence and the post-independence period.

"It will enable scholars

in future to study that particular period of history."

Works Minister Datuk Samy Vellu described the Memorial as inspirational and the "finest achievement" of the Malacca Government.

Transport Minister Tan Sri Chong Hong Nyan said it was an excellent idea to transform the elite Malacca Club building into something which the whole nation could now appreciate.

"The leaders portrayed here in the struggle for independence include those from the MCA as well as the MIC."

Public Enterprises Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz spoke of the emotions the Memorial exhibits brought out in her.

"By viewing the exhibits, I could relate to the past and now standing here I feel I am one of those who have benefited from the struggle of

the leaders who fought for the liberation of the country," she said.

Education Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said schools should organise trips to the Memorial because it would benefit students wanting to learn more about nationalism.

"The launching of the Memorial coincides with the emphasis on civics in schools."

Telecommunications, Posts and Energy Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said the Memorial would be a constant reminder to the people of the independence period.

DAF Secretary-General Mr Lim Kit Siang said the Memorial would enable Malaysians and foreigners to learn the history of the country and understand the evolution of the nation.

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik said the Memorial would act as a catalyst for the nationalist spirit.