

31 AUG 1996

Merdeka-Celebration

MALAYSIANS CELEBRATE DOWN UNDER

By: Neville D'Cruz

MELBOURNE, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- Flag raising ceremonies, food fairs and dinners were held in several parts of Australia today to mark Malaysia's 39th National Day.

In Melbourne and Sydney, students gathered at their respective Dewan Malaysia to hear Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's message which was read by the Malaysian consuls after the Malaysian flag was raised.

In Adelaide, about 450 Malaysians and their friends held a sell-out dinner at which cultural items were performed.

The Australia Malaysia Business Council, Victoria Branch held a dinner at the Danish Club in the Melbourne beach side suburb of Middle Park.

Guests were mainly Australians who have joint ventures with Malaysians. Music was provided by a Malaysian band comprising Nick Nathan, Leo Samy, Yusuf Abdul Rahman, Olivia Nathan and Charles Nathan.

In Canberra, the new Malaysian High Commissioner Datuk Adnan Othman held a reception for staff guests to mark National Day.

Malaysian students in Melbourne held a successful food fair at the Dewan Malaysia.

One of the organisers, Adrina Shazlin Shukor, said that this year about 500 people visited the food fair with brisk sales of traditional Malay fare.

The Club Umno of Melbourne will hold a Malam Merdeka on Sept 30 at the Prahran Town Hall.

About 500 people are expected to attend the night which will include a dinner and cultural items. -- BERNAMA

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