

31/08/1997

Malaysian flag named `Jalur Gemilang`

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - After 40 years without a name, the Malaysian flag was officially named Jalur Gemilang.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the announcement at midnight in conjunction with the 40th National Day celebrations.

Jalur means a "range of values", "wavelengths" or "stripes" while gemilang is "glorious". Read together, Jalur Gemilang means a "glorious range of values".

Dr Mahathir had earlier received the flag from the Flag-Flying Motothon 1997 at Dataran Merdeka.

The national flag consists of 14 red and white stripes of equal width, a union or canton of dark blue, a crescent and a star.

The red and white stripes stand for the equal status of the States in the federation.

The union or canton of dark blue in the upper quarter of the flag represents the unity of the peoples of Malaysia. The crescent is the symbol of Islam. The 14 points of the star symbolise the unity of the 13 States in the federation. The yellow colour of the star and crescent symbolises the Malay Rulers.

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