

15 AUG 1997

Zaleha-Merdeka

MORE THAN 200 VEHICLES FOR NATIONWIDE MERDEKA MOTORTON

SHAH ALAM, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- More than 100 cars and 100 motorcycles will participate in a nationwide motor rally called "Motothon Perpaduan Kibar Bendera 1997" which will begin on Aug 25 and end at the Merdeka Square in the federal capital on National Day eve.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said today the 280 motorists will be divided into six groups -- three in the peninsula and one each in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

Of the peninsula participants, those in the northern zone will be flagged off in Kangar, eastern zone in Kota Baharu and southern zone in Johor Baharu.

Each group would be welcomed at the borders of each state by the respective menteris besar accompanied by a motorcade, Zaleha said.

The Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan participants will join the others in Kuala Lumpur after they finish the rally in their respective states, the minister said at the launch of the programme at the EON auditorium here.

The highlight of the programme would be the handover of the national flag to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the celebrations at Merdeka Square on the night of Aug 30.

Zaleha urged the public to come out in force to welcome the rally as a show of support and patriotism.

Asked about the problem of thieves stealing miniature national flags displayed on vehicles, Zaleha said it was a shameful act and they should be made to perform community service as punishment. -- BERNAMA

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