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People in Penang looking forward to N-Day joy

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PENANG, Thurs. - A heightened sense of patriotism, pride, joy and excitement most aptly describes the feeling of Penang residents who play host to the National Day celebrations this year.

National Day parade attended by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Cabinet Ministers will be held for the first time in Penang on Aug 31.

Several Penang residents interviewed said it was a rare opportunity for people here to see the parade live.

Merdeka-year born civil servant Md Musali Mohan, 41, described it as of special significance to the northern States generally and for Penang particularly.

"We are certainly happy and proud to host the event and everyone should express our patriotism by attending the celebrations," said Zainol Alaudin, 50, a trader in Komtar, adding that the building does not have not sufficient decorations and lightings.

Pensioner V. Veloo, 56, expressed happiness and gratitude to the Federal Government for letting Penang host the prestigious event which would bring more tourists and revenue in conjunction with the many related activities and performances.

Hotel worker Mong Toon Sang, 71, is sad as he would not be able to see the parade for he has to work on that day. However, he urged Penang residents who could make it to do so.

Nasi kandar seller, M.S.M. Mohd Iqbal, 59, said he was very excited because it was a golden opportunity for Penang people.

Clerk Simon Sinnasamy, 35, has put up a flag in his flats to add to the mood.

Schoolgirl, Lim Siew Kim, 15, said she and her friends were very proud and excited the celebrations will be held in Penang and said they would attend the parade.

In the meantime, several office buildings, shopping complexes and homes were either being prepared or already spruced up for the National Day event. Banners, streamers, flags of all sizes and coloured lights were hung across several buildings.

Vehicles, including trishaws, can be seen flying the Malaysian flag while several shopping and food outlets are already advertising special offers and reductions in conjunction with the celebrations.

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