

31/08/1998

PM joins revellers at Esplanade

PENANG, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir joined a large crowd of revellers at the Esplanade, and at the stroke of midnight, witnessed the hoisting of the national flag to loud cheers and applause.

Many motorists in the vicinity honked and several ships at Penang Port blew their horns to signal the dawn of another historic day for the country.

Penang is playing host to this year's National Day celebrations and its residents have taken great pride in this.

Also present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, several Ministers and State executive councillors.

At the event, the State Government, Barisan Nasional component parties and individuals presented RM1.3 million to Dr Mahathir for the National Special Fund.

A concert was held at the Esplanade from 8pm to midnight to add to the merriment. In addition, several films of the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee were screened.

Tomorrow, the National Day parade will be held along Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah opposite the Universiti Sains Malaysia campus in Minden. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah will join Dr Mahathir, Koh and Ministers at the grand stage to witness the march past.

Elsewhere, large groups gathered at public places nationwide to greet the dawn of the 41st National Day at the stroke of midnight with shouts of "Merdeka" and hoist the national flag.

At the Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur, there was a concert followed by the hoisting of the Jalur Gemilang at midnight.

In Johor, the countdown was preceded by cultural performances at the Dataran Sri Mersing. After the flag-hoisting ceremony, there was a procession of floats along the Mersing jetty.

In Ipoh, a Merdekarama night preceded the flag-raising ceremony at Dataran Ipoh.

In Kota Kinabalu, the Jalur Gemilang was hoisted at midnight at Padang Merdeka.

In Kuching, the residents celebrated with the grand finale of the 1998 Kuching Festival at the waterfront.

In Alor Star, the national flag was raised at midnight at Medan Balai Besar after a choir performance.

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