

30 AUG 1999

Millennium-Square

REVELLERS FLOCK TO MERDEKA SQUARE DESPITE NO CELEBRATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Although no activities were held at the Merdeka Square on the eve of the National Day like in previous years, thousands of city dwellers flocked to the square to experience the euphoria of the Aug 31 celebrations at the stroke of midnight.

About 30,000 people gathered in front of the Sultan Abdul Samad Building to hear the giant clock chime 12 times, marking the country's 42nd Independence Day.

The crowd who gathered there since 6pm shouted "Merdeka! Merdeka! Merdeka! when the clock struck 12 times although there were no firework display like in previous years.

Policemen and security personnel were at the square to ensure rule and order.

Several people interviewed said although they knew the National Day eve celebrations were held at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil, they felt gratified to gather at the Merdeka Square to commemorate the historic day.

They recalled the Independence Day proclamation by the first Prime Minister the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj 42 years ago.

The Malaysia Centennial Towards A New Millennium celebration, the run-up to the National Day celebrations tomorrow, was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

-- BERNAMA

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