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Bash to mark nation's formation

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - The closing ceremony of the Independence Month celebration will be held at Likas Bay on Sept 16, to coincide with the formation of Malaysia on that date in 1963.

The celebration will also coincide with Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai's official birthday.

The parade to mark the Yang di-Pertua's birthday will be held on the morning of Sept 16 and Sakaran will later confer awards at the Istana Negeri. However, the annual State Banquet will make way for a colourful celebration at night at Likas Bay.

The celebration sub-committee, chaired by Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal, met for the second time yesterday at the State Legislative Assembly building in Likas, near here.

"The Independence Month celebration will kick off in Kuala Lumpur on August 16 and will end here in Kota Kinabalu a month later. It is to mark Independence Day on Aug 31 and the formation of Malaysia on Sept 16," he told newsmen after chairing the meeting.

Shafie said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah; Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi are expected to attend the closing ceremony.

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