

30 JUNE 2000

Kadir-Merdeka

NATIONAL DAY PARADE TO BE HELD IN SHAH ALAM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 30 (Bernama) -- The national day parade, which is the climax of the Merdeka or Independence Celebration Month, will be held for the first time in Shah Alam, Selangor on Aug 31.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the parade at Persiaran Perdagangan would be among the five important events for the Merdeka Month this year.

"Beginning this year, the Merdeka celebration will be extended to a month with various events being held and will no longer be celebrated merely with the parade on the national day," he said at a media conference after chairing the Merdeka Celebration Month Main Committee meeting here today in conjunction with the 43rd Malaysian independence anniversary.

The Merdeka celebration month this year will begin on Aug 17 and end on Sept 16.

He said the Merdeka Month would begin with the launching of the Jalur Gemilang or national flag campaign throughout the country on Aug 17.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch the campaign here while at the state and district levels the campaign will be launched by the respective Menteri Besar and District Officers.

Abdul Kadir said through the campaign, the people would be encouraged to put up the Jalur Gemilang flag during the duration of the campaign.

Mosques throughout the country would also be asked to hold special prayers and "tahlil" on Aug 25 to show gratitude for having achieved national independence while Malaysians of other faiths would have their own prayers, he said.

The Merdeka Eve celebration at the national level would be held at Dataran Merdeka on Aug 30 and Malaysians gathering at the square would shout "Merdeka" seven times exactly at 12 midnight.

The closing of the Merdeka Celebration Month would be held in Kota Kinabalu on Sept 16 with various programmes being held, he said.

Meanwhile, the logo designed by visual artist Madeni Minwari won the Merdeka Celebration Month logo competition, beating 1,580 other designs.

Madeni, 29, who works in a private firm, wins RM5,000 cash as well as a trophy and a certificate of participation.

Her logo signifies the gratitude of the multi-racial Malaysians for having attained peace and prosperity.

The blue circle and the yellow moon and stars signify a country with 14 states with Islam as the official religion besides the freedom of practising other religion.

The red, yellow and white colours in the logo in the form of humans signify the three main communities in Malaysia namely the Bumiputeras, Chinese and Indians.

-- BERNAMA  
RZS AHH AO