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Raise Jalur Gemilang, not flags of political parties

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Malaysians should raise the national flag and not flags of individual political parties during the month-long celebration of the country's independence, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ong Tee Keat said today.

"The important thing is to raise the Jalur Gemilang. Now is not the moment for flying flags of individual parties," he said.

Ong, who is chairman of the flag-flying campaign committee, urged Members of Parliament and State Assemblymen to celebrate National Day at the grass roots level.

The occasion "cuts across race, religion and political beliefs", he said after presenting the national flag to 12 representatives of youth and media organisations.

Among them were Datuk Saharuddin Awang Yahya representing Persatuan Kebajikan Pengundi Malaysia, Nik Mohd Mazuki Nik Mat representing FT National Youth Council and representatives of the New Straits Times, Berita Harian, Utusan Malaysia, Sistem Television Malaysia (TV3) and Berita Nasional Malaysia (Bernama).

The celebrations to commemorate Malaysia's 43rd year of independence are scheduled to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Dataran Merdeka tomorrow.

Two songs, Keranamu Malaysia and Jalur Gemilang will be introduced to the more than 10,000 people expected at the event.

Jalur Gemilang will be flown during the month-long celebration from tomorrow till Sept 16.

"When it comes to talking about loving our nation, our people are usually reserved. Now is the chance to show our love for the country."

Ong said Malaysians need to nurture and preserve their love for the nation, especially in the onslaught of globalisation.

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