

# Kadir: Come together to celebrate as Malaysians

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KUALA LUMPUR: Put aside all differences from now until the end of the National Day celebrations on Sept 16 and raise the *Jalur Gemilang* — that's the impassioned plea from Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

He said this was one of the occasions when Malaysians celebrate together without racial, religious and political barriers.

"It does not matter whether you are a PAS, DAP, Umno or Keadilan member. Now is the time to set aside our differences and celebrate what is common among us," he told a press conference after witnessing the *Jalur Gemilang* flag-raising ceremony and the launch of the "Merdeka Tree of Celebrations" charity drive

2001 organised by Federal Hotel here.

Kadir said everyone, especially from the private sector, should take the initiative to raise the national flag in homes, offices, factories, vehicles and anywhere that is significant.

Tenaga Nasional Bhd has agreed to discount electricity bills by over 50% for the occasion, he said.

He also urged shopping complexes and buildings located along streets to decorate their premises attractively.

Kadir said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would launch the celebrations on Aug 17 at Dataran Merdeka.

"We will celebrate the occasion until Sept 16 which is to signify Sabah and Sarawak's independence as well," he added.