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PM FLAGS OFF 2001 MERDEKA EXPEDITION

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today flagged off the 2001 Merdeka expedition at the Putrajaya Square here.

The expedition is a 17-day tour of peninsular Malaysia using four-wheel drive vehicles involving 74 participants, including 20 media representatives.

The event is designed to rekindle patriotism among Malaysians as a run-up to the country's 44th independence day celebrations on Aug 31, according to an Information Department statement here today.

During the course of the expedition, participants will take part in civics talks besides distributing Jalur Gemilang, the national flag, to motorists to adorn their vehicles.

The peninsular expedition ends at Kuala Lumpur's Merdeka Square on Aug 17.

A similar expedition through Sabah and Sarawak starts on Aug 18 until Aug 25.

-- BERNAMA

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