

22 AUG 2001

Merdeka-Prayers

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR MERDEKA MONTH BEGINNING FRIDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir today urged all Malaysians of various faiths to hold prayers for prosperity and harmony in the country in conjunction with the Merdeka Month celebrations.

He said religious ceremonies involving all faiths in the country would be held beginning Friday with the Friday prayers and a special sermon on independence and tahlil prayers would be held at 6,000 mosques throughout the country.

"If we come out and pray according to our respective faiths seeking for continued prosperity in the country in future...this is one of the ways carried out by other countries. I am convinced Allah will grant our prayers," he said at a media conference at his office here today.

Abdul Kadir said that at the federal level, the special prayers would be held at the National Mosque which will be attended by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Muslim cabinet ministers.

At the state level, the prayers will be held at the respective state mosques headed by the Sultans, Yang Dipertuas Negeri, Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers and the State Exco members.

Abdul Kadir said on Saturday, Buddhists would hold special prayers at Vihara Temple, Jalan Tun Sambanthan while Christians will hold a special service on Sunday.

On Aug 30, Sikhs will hold special prayers at Gudwara Temple, Selayang and Gudwara Temple, Sentul.

The Hindus would hold special prayers at the Sri Maha Mariaman Temple, Jalan Bandar on Aug 31.

-- BERNAMA

HS RZS AO