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Yen Yen-Merdeka

PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROMOTE 45TH MERDEKA DAY CELEBRATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- The private sector will complement and add glitter to official programmes to mark the 45th Merdeka Day and Merdeka Eve celebrations here.

Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts and Tourism, Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said the private sector would organise various activities in Petaling Street, Bintang Walk, Sunway Lagoon, The Mines Resort City and Genting World Resort.

The attractions at Merdeka Square on Aug 30 will include the countdown to 12 midnight seven shouts of 'Merdeka', hoisting the 'Jalur Gemilang', singing of national anthem - Negaraku, Keranamu Malaysia and Jalur Gemilang besides other events.

"At Merdeka Square there will also be presentations from the 50s," she told a press conference on 2002 Merdeka Eve programme here today.

Besides that Dr Ng said people who could not participate in the official Merdeka Day programmes should have their own celebrations at villages, housing estates or within the family.

"We hope such celebrations will strengthen ties and unity among the people especially among neighbours of various races," she said.

Meanwhile, residential schools nationwide too have been urged to join in the celebrations to strengthen patriotism and appreciation for independence among the younger generation.

Dr Ng Yen Yen said the Education Ministry supported the decision and had instructed the schools to draw up their Merdeka Day programmes.

"These schools could have various programmes, for instance a small dinner while waiting for midnight and then usher in Aug 31 and also echo the shouts of 'Merdeka' by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad from the Merdeka Square, which could be followed from the live telecast," she said.

She said school principles and caretakers would have to play an important role in managing the event to inculcate patriotism among students and to enable the younger generation to appreciate independence.

-- BERNAMA

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