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Fly flag or build arches to celebrate Merdeka Day

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - As Merdeka Day approaches, Malaysians should begin flying the flag for the month-long celebration, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said.

He said people could also do other things like erecting arches to mark the day.

"There will be a nationwide countdown on the eve of Merdeka, and there will be seven chants of Merdeka at midnight," he said yesterday.

The celebrations, to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Dataran Merdeka on Aug 17, will end in Port Dickson on Sept 16.

For Muslims, a special Friday sermon on Independence will be delivered at mosques nationwide on Aug 30.

Hindus will hold Merdeka Day prayers on Aug 30 while Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs and Taoists will do so on Aug 25.