

24 AUG 2002  
Merdeka-Religious  
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR MERDEKA MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Religious activities will be held in conjunction with the Merdeka Month Celebrations by the various faiths in the country, said Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

In a statement here today he urged the various faiths to hold thanksgiving for the security and prosperity enjoyed by the people and to pray for protection in future.

He said religious programmes were important to educate the people to be thankful for what they had received.

"Many among the young generation do not know and are not exposed to the spirit and discipline of the older generation," said Abdul Kadir who is also chairman of the National Committee for the 45th Merdeka Month Celebrations.

He said all faiths would hold their respective religious functions on the dates specified based on the Special Friday Sermon and Special Merdeka Prayers and all texts for the functions had been sent to the parties concerned by the respective religions.

For Muslims, all mosques nationwide would hold Friday prayers by reading the Special Merdeka Sermon followed by Special Merdeka prayers on Aug 30.

At the federal level, it will be held at the National Mosque led by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several cabinet ministers.

At the state level, they will be led by the Sultans, Yang di-Pertuas Negeri and attended by the Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers as well as State Exco members.

For Christians, the functions will be held nationwide on Aug 25 while at the federal level the function is scheduled to be held at the St. Mary's Church, Dataran Merdeka beginning at 9.30am.

For the Sikhs, it will be held on Aug 25 beginning at 9am while at the federal level, it will be held at Gudwara Temple, Jalan Haji Salleh, Sentul.

For Buddhists, the federal level function will be held at the Buddhist Vihara, Jalan Brickfield beginning Aug 24 at 6.30pm until 7am on Aug 25.

For Hindus, the ceremony will be held on Aug 30 beginning at 7pm at the Sri Mahamariamman Temple, Jalan Tun HS Lee here.

For Taoists, it will be held at the Chi Chai Kong Temple, Selayang Baru on Aug 25 beginning at 8pm.

-- BERNAMA

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