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Merdeka-Programmes

MERDEKA MONTH RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMES TO START LAST WEEK OF AUGUST

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Religious programmes to be observed in conjunction with the Merdeka Month celebrations by Malaysians from all faiths in the country will start on the last week of this month.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the programmes would begin on Aug 24 with the Buddhists holding special prayers from 6.30pm till 7am the following day at the Buddhist Vihara Temple in Jalan Berhala, Brickfields.

This would be followed by the Sikh and Taoist on Aug 25, Christians on Aug 25 and 28 and Hindus and Muslims on Aug 30, he told a media conference today.

He said texts of Friday sermon and special Merdeka Day doa selamat would be distributed to mosques.

The texts were jointly prepared by the ministry and the Malaysian Islamic Advancement Department (Jakim), he said.

Abdul Kadir said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Syed Jamalullail, accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would join fellow Muslims in Friday prayers at the National Mosque on Aug 30.

He said PAS-led Kelantan and Terengganu state governments have also agreed to organise religious programmes to mark Merdeka Month.

The programmes were one of the ways of showing gratitude to GOD for the peace and stability enjoyed by Malaysians, he added.

-- BERNAMA

LIB MFJ TS