

19 AUG 2003

PM to mingle with Petaling Street folk on National Day

KUALA LUMPUR: Hawkers, petty traders and residents of Petaling Street will have the opportunity to mingle with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he visits the place on Aug 30.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to launch the Malaysian Patriotism Rally in conjunction with the National Day celebrations.

The event is jointly organised by the Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Petty Traders Association, the Nam Ann Association of Malaysia and the Malaysian Garments Wholesale Merchants Association.

The day-long celebration will also feature performances by local artistes in a special concert held at the venue.

Organising committee chairman Datuk Dr Tan Tiong Hong said the event, aimed at fostering national unity and promoting camaraderie among Malaysians, would also reflect the support of hawkers and traders for the Government.

"The gathering will comprise

people from all walks of life as the purpose of the event is also to promote integration among Malaysians," he said.

He added that hawkers and petty traders in the vicinity were grateful to the Government for initiating the Petaling Street beautification project as it had improved their business tremendously.

Dr Mahathir, who would be at Petaling Street at 11am, would also launch the China Town Rela platoon, which was formed to ensure that the venue was safe for shoppers and tourists, said Dr Tan.

Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Fu Ah Kiow, who joined the organising committee on a walkabout yesterday along Petaling Street and the adjacent Jalan Hang Lekir, praised residents, traders and hawkers from the area for their joint efforts in commemorating the nation's 46th National Day celebrations.

He handed out miniature flags to traders and shoppers.