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Merdeka

CITY HALL PLANS EXTRAORDINARY MERDEKA CELEBRATION FOR KL

PASIR PUTEH, July 14 (Bernama) -- Kuala Lumpur City Hall is preparing for an extraordinary Merdeka Day celebration in conjunction with the retirement of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tengku Azlan Sultan Abu Bakar said such a ceremony was suitable as Merdeka, celebrated on Aug 31, was almost similar to Dr Mahathir's retirement date.

"The Prime Minister, who has contributed so much to the country, should be accorded the highest honours to show our gratitude," he told reporters at a Mesra Warga Emas function here today.

In the function organised by the Bukit Abal Rukun Tetangga, Tengku Azlan handed gifts to 300 elderly and unfortunate people from around the Selising constituency.

He said among the events being planned were a function commemorating Dr Mahathir's success in developing the country, poetry reading, singing, dancing and a 10-minute fireworks display before the clock struck midnight.

He said all levels of society should participate and make it a bigger celebration than ever before as the contributions of the Prime Minister could not be reimbursed financially.

This included opposition parties like Pas as they, too, had enjoyed the fruits of the Prime Minister's labour over the past 21 years, he said.

"We should set aside political interests to honour someone who has done us a lot of service," Tengku Azlan said.

-- BERNAMA

WM BD EMK SRI