

24 AUG 2003

Kadir-Eve

200,000 EXPECTED TO JOIN MERDEKA EVE CELEBRATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- More than 200,000 people are expected to join in the Merdeka Eve celebration organised by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry at Dataran Merdeka here on Aug 30.

Its minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said the ministry promised an exciting event and urged those in the city to celebrate it with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"As everyone knows, this is the last time the Prime Minister will celebrate the eve of Merdeka with us," he told reporters before watching the City Hall brass band and mounted unit rehearsals at Dataran Merdeka here today.

During the celebration, L. Jayabarathy, 19, will try to pull four TD2000 cars with her hair to create a new entry in the Malaysia Book of Records.

There will also be a concert featuring artists like Too Phat, Aqasha, Ella and Fauziah Ahmad Daud, a fireworks display and the release of 46,000 colourful balloons.

The night would peak with the midnight countdown and the yell of "Merdeka" led by the Prime Minister, Abdul Kadir said.

The celebration would also be held simultaneously around the country and Radio Television Malaysia would telecast the celebration live starting 9.30pm with crossovers from Dataran Merdeka, Kangar, Shah Alam, Kota Baharu, Kota Kinabalu and Miri, he said.

Klang Valley residents will also see celebrations at the KLCC park, Sunway Lagoon, Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Sepang Formula One Circuit and KL Sentral.

-- BERNAMA

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