

29 AUG 2003

Merdeka-Rehearsal

FULL DRESS MERDEKA PARADE REHEARSAL GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Despite the rain the full dress Merdeka Parade rehearsal went off without a hitch at the Dataran Putrajaya here today.

The parade and procession along the Boulevard proceeded smoothly under the watchful eyes of Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Speaking to reporters later, Abdul Kadir invited the public to visit Putrajaya on Sunday for the National Day parade.

"I am confident this will be an extraordinary event and live up to our hopes of expressing our appreciation to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

Dr Mahathir will attend this year's National Day parade for the last time as Prime Minister of Malaysia as he will retire in October.

More than 400,000 people are expected to converge on Putrajaya, the Federal administrative capital, to watch the parade mounted by 22,640 people. Millions will watch the show over television to be covered by more than 50 local and foreign TV stations.

Some 300 foreign journalists had also been invited to cover the parade and tomorrow night's Merdeka Eve celebrations at the Merdeka Square in Kuala Lumpur.

Abdul Kadir also appealed to the people to pray for good weather tomorrow night and on Sunday morning so that the events could go off well.

-- BERNAMA

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