

06 JAN 2003

Kadir-Parade

MERDEKA PARADE TO BE HELD IN PUTRAJAYA, SAYS KADIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- The national-level Merdeka Day parade this year will be held in Putrajaya, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said tonight.

He said the parade, comprising contingents, uniformed bodies and cultural performances of various races, would be held in Dataran Putra on Aug 31.

"We picked Putrajaya to honour the contributions of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who has developed Putrajaya as the administrative centre of the federal government," he said when speaking at a dinner hosted by the Malay Journalists Association of Malaysia.

The dinner is held to celebrate the success of the participants of "Explore Malaysia 2002" programme organised by the association in conjunction with the Merdeka Month celebrations last year.

A total of 456 participants took part in the programme which culminated in the handing over of Jalur Gemilang to the Prime Minister on the eve of National Day.

Touching on the programme, Kadir said his ministry would cooperate with the organiser and the association to make the programme more attractive and successful.

"The participation format will be improved as it is a good programme to instil patriotism spirit among our people," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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