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Merdeka-Card
MERDEKA CARDS TO BE ON SALE FOR FIRST TIME

IPOH, March 11 (Bernama) -- While festive cards for Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Chinese New Year and Deepavali are a common thing, a card depicting the Merdeka Day celebrations will be making its debut this year as the country ushers into its 46th year of independence.

Coming in nine designs, the card, the first of its kind in the country and probably in the world, is designed by a group of teleworkers in "tcenter", a pilot teleworking project in Desa Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur.

The project's Content Manager, S.K. Devamany, said they chose to print the Merdeka Day cards so that the entire nation could feel, celebrate and be proud of the achievements by Malaysia since its independence in 1957.

"We want the entire nation, regardless of their age, race or culture, to celebrate. Unlike normal festive cards, this card will speak as one language, one race and one nation," he said today.

He said the card was also to mark the contributions of the former and current leaders of the country as well as a timely tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will be retiring in October.

Devamany, a Ipoh City Councillor and former Perak MIC Youth Chief, said the various designs reflected the multiracial, multicultural, progress and achievements of the country since independence.

"It's important to instil in our youngsters the love for the country and why we should preserve the independence. This is history learning by itself," he said.

He said the first design portrays the historical part, showing the first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman proclaiming Independence on Aug 31, 1957.

Another design was created to mark the leaders' contributions, beginning with the Tunku (1957-1970), second Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak (1970-1976), Tun Hussein Onn (1976-1981) and Dr Mahathir.

Devamany said three designs were dedicated for Dr Mahathir for his vision, his role in transforming the country to one of the fastest developing nations and for placing it on the world map.

"We have also one card on Jalur Gemilang to show the love and affection for the country through our national flag. This is important as the flag is a symbol of our sovereignty," he said.

The rest of the cards depict the many achievements of the nation, including the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest building, and the unity that had kept the many races together and united.

The cards also carry poems, including one by Dr Mahathir himself, Usman Awang and A. Samad Said.

Devamany said the cards would be on sale from March 21 after the official launching of the Teleworking Portal in Desa Tun Razak by Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

"We can send this cards to our friends, our clients, community leaders and anyone overseas. This card is also a collectors' item," he said.

He said profits from the sale would be channelled to the project which was initiated in June last year aimed at assisting housewives, single mothers, unemployed youths and pensioners to use Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills and knowledge to earn income through teleworking.

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