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USE MERDEKA TO PAY TRIBUTE TO DR MAHATHIR, URGES SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Malaysians from all walks of life celebrating the country's 46th Merdeka Day have been urged to dedicate this year's independence day celebrations to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

MIC President and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the Prime Minister, who had held the position for the last 22 years, had toiled for the nation, developing it by leaps and bounds.

"Not only have we, as Malaysians, taken up his time but also his energy. It is only right that we pay our tribute to Dr Mahathir. We have to thank him for all he has done for the country," he said in his Merdeka Day message after chairing the MIC Central Working Committee meeting here today.

Dr Mahathir, after being in the nation's top post for 22 years, will step down as Prime Minister in October. He will be succeeded by his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Samy Vellu also said Malaysians must also take time to think about the leaders who struggled for the country's independence as they had sacrificed a lot for the nation at that time.

"We also have to safeguard our independence. We have to overcome obstacles placed in front of us, be it in the country or out of the country," he added.

Samy Vellu said Malaysians also needed to strive for the nation to achieve a fully developed status by the year 2020 and "this would be our greatest present to Dr Mahathir."

-- BERNAMA  
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