

31 JUL 2003

Merdeka-Celebrations

VARIOUS PROGRAMMES PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR'S MERDEKA DAY CELEBRATIONS

PUTRAJAYA, July 31 (Bernama) -- This year's Merdeka Day Celebrations will be unique in that it will for the first time be held in the country's new Federal Administrative Capital of Putrajaya.

The 46th Merdeka Celebrations would not be marked by the customary procession and fireworks display but by various other interesting programmes, Putrajaya Holding's Deputy Director of Public Relations and Tourism, Norhazifa Mohamed. said.

Many programmes, including fishing and cooking contests, have been arranged in an effort to promote Putrajaya as the country's new Federal Administrative Capital apart from entertaining and fostering interaction between residents in and outside the vicinity, she said.

"The opening ceremony will kick off with the launch of the Agriculture Heritage Park on Aug 16, followed by a Food and Fruits Festival and other programmes until Sept 1," Norhazifa said.

This year's celebrations will use last year's theme 'Keraname Malaysia' (For You Malaysia) to commemorate the country's development, especially since 1981.

The highlight of the event would be on the eve of Independence Day, on Aug 30, at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Putrajaya 1, Presint 8, where traditional and modern performances would be staged, she said.

An exhibition on the history of Malaysia's independence will also be held for three days, beginning on Aug 30, at the Multi-Purpose Hall of Precinct 16 here.

It is aimed at recounting to the new generation the country's achievements under the Premiership of four leaders, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Norhazifa said.

Other events include a handicraft exhibition from Aug 29 to Sept 1 at the Souq, Botani-Wetland Merdeka Cycle Hunt on Aug 30, cooking and sale of traditional delicacies from Aug 30-31 at the Agriculture Heritage Park and One-Day Market from Aug 30 to Sept 1 at the Multi-Purpose Hall of Precinct 16.

Some 20,000 participants are expected to take part in this year's Merdeka march at the Boulevard, covering four squares, which will include Dataran Gemilang, Dataran Putrajaya, Dataran Rakyat and Dataran Wawasan.

-- BERNAMA  
SHI SUA SRI