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Dr M happy with `extraordinary celebration`

Firdaus Abdullah

PUTRAJAYA, Sun. - Describing this year's National Day celebration as something extraordinary and the biggest since 1957, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the sense of patriotism among the young was something the whole nation could be proud of.

The Prime Minister, who was all smiles after witnessing the 46th National Day parade and celebration along the Boulevard, said he was touched by the spirit shown by the more than 300,000 people who had turned up to celebrate the nation's birthday.

"This year is extraordinary because so many people turned up and people were really gung-ho ...very keen to celebrate this historic day.

"I think this is the biggest celebration so far, even the parade and shows were on a grander scale and we all could see that Malaysians have turned up in full force for this occasion," he said shortly before leaving the celebration venue.

"We can see and feel the unity among Malaysians from all walks of life. This time around, we even had a huge participation of teams from Sabah and Sarawak, with songs rendered in the various languages spoken in the country. All the races came together to make our national celebration a success."

Asked about his feelings since this would be the last time he celebrated the event as Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir said: "Well, I'm very happy, thank you."

He expressed confidence and hope that the younger generation would maintain and further enhance their spirit of patriotism and love for the nation as they would be the nation's future leaders.