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Merdeka Day parade to be held in Putrajaya this year

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Merdeka Day parade this year will be held in Putrajaya, said Culture, Arts and Tourism minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

"This is the first time that we are having a big national event at Putrajaya," he said, adding that the celebrations will run from Aug 17 to Sept 16.

It will be launched in Malacca where Tengku Abdul Rahman Putra announced the country's date of independence in 1956.

Abdul Kadir said this year's celebrations would also be a bittersweet one because it would be Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's last Merdeka Day celebration in his official capacity.

"That month will be the time for all Malaysians to show their love for the country and to demonstrate their pride in being an independent country," he said.

He encouraged Malaysians to fly the flag at their homes, offices, schools and places of work.