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Reflect on significance of Merdeka Day

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WE have, year in and year out, celebrated our Merdeka Day with parades, pop concerts and various other forms of revelry. The only difference this year is the change of venue from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya. We seem to have missed the real significance of celebrating our independence.

Most Malaysians, especially the younger generations, regard Merdeka eve and Merdeka Day as a time for having fun. It has become routine and we have taken for granted today's peace, stability and prosperity.

Not many of us take Merdeka Day as a time of reflection, to reflect on those who sacrificed their time, money and even their lives for the nation. Those who opposed the Malayan Union and rallied around Tengku Abdul Rahman in the quest for independence and those who fought and died during the Emergency have been forgotten.

We must heed the words of caution by our Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of the need to be vigilant to safeguard our sovereignty and independence.

Recent world incidents have shown that colonisation is rearing its ugly head again. A nation could easily lose its independence and sovereignty. Iraq and Afghanistan are two examples.

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