

Pak Lah: Merdeka theme 'strange', but okay
MalaysiaKini.com
Aug 5, 2012

Former Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he accepted the "Janji Ditepati (Promises Fulfilled)" Merdeka Day theme, but noted that it sounded a bit weird.

"We accept this theme that has been chosen, although it is ganjil sikit (a bit strange)," said Abdullah, according to Bernama.

Speaking to reporters after a function in Kepala Batas today, Abdullah said the theme should be viewed alongside the achievement of past administrations.

He said Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has made a slew of promises and most of it had been kept.

Yesterday, Information, Communications and Culture Minister Rais Yatim said the theme was a cabinet decision and Putrajaya would not budge on the matter.

In what appears to be a comedy of errors, the theme and related materials have been the subject of much ridicule and satire.

Critics have claimed that the theme was inappropriate because it is also the campaign theme of BN for the next general election.

Others claim that the theme does not reflect nationhood and that Putrajaya is unable to distinguish between propaganda and the struggle for independence.

Rais for was forced to withdraw the logo for the celebrations after it was panned by graphic designers for being a meaningless amateurish effort.

The minister is also soliciting feedback on the theme song after it received mostly negative reviews on Youtube due to the propaganda elements in its lyrics, which he penned himself.