

Merdeka the reward

PM: Use Golden Jubilee to show our progress

PUTRAJAYA: The country has fulfilled all the demands of its freedom fighters prior to Independence and ensured the safety of future generations, said the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said their sacrifices had been rewarded with Independence and now their children and grandchildren were enjoying development and progress.

The country, he said, had fulfilled the aspirations of the freedom fighters through its many national policies and economic plans.

"Since Independence, the policies and plans created have made it (Malaysia) a prosperous country and given dignity to the Malaysian race," he said.

Abdullah, however, added that there were also lessons to be learnt from the past and further improvements to be made now to ensure Malaysia achieved developed nation status by 2020.

Speaking after unveiling

Media Prima's 50th Merdeka anniversary logo and celebrations here yesterday, Abdullah said 50 years of independence meant 50 years of success and pride for the nation.

"We deserve to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, 50 years of pride and success achieved by all Malaysians next year," he said.

Commending Media Prima for initiating the celebration, Abdullah hoped other organisations would follow suit to show the world the development and progress of Malaysia.

Later Media Prima Bhd group chief executive officer Abdul Rahman Ahmad told reporters that the year-long celebration leading up to Aug 31 next year would begin in September.

Among the scheduled events for the celebration were TV programmes featuring interviews with soldiers who fought the communists and roadshows abroad exhibiting Malaysian products.