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# Time capsule on Merdeka

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Two original documents on the country's Merdeka proclamation will be kept in a capsule at the National Archives and will only be opened in 2057, said Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

He said one of the documents was the proclamation of the country's independence which was read by first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman in 1957 and the other was the one read by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the 50th Merdeka Eve celebrations.

"These are historical docu-

ments which will be kept in the capsule and will be opened and read again," he said at a function organised by his ministry to fete members of the media for their contributions in ensuring the success of the 50th Merdeka celebrations.

Rais said the capsule would be handed to the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan before it was sent to the National Archives for safe keeping.

Thanking media members for their co-operation, he said the ministry also planned to organise a mobile exhibition on news and pictures of events

during the 50th Merdeka celebrations in shopping complexes nationwide.

On the RM773 million allocation to the ministry as proposed in Budget 2008, he said it would be utilised, among others, for cultural and heritage development programmes, research projects, as well as programmes to promote languages and noble values.

Rais added that the ministry would meet with the management of Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad and the operator of Hotel Majestic next week to discuss the conservation of buildings there. — Bernama