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Malacca to relive historic moments

■ By Jason Gerald John
jasong@nst.com.my

MALACCA: Described as the place "Where It All Began", history is set to be made again in this historic city.

It will once again relive the moment when the nation's father of independence Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj returned from England on Feb 20, 1956, after successfully negotiating the country's independence.

Malacca was where the country's first prime minister announced the country's independence.

Set to capture the atmosphere felt 51 years ago, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will play the leading role as he retraces the footsteps of the late Tunku tonight.

Abdullah will travel from Renaissance Hotel to Dataran Merdeka in the Merdeka car, a



Malaysiaku Gemilang

Nash Rambler Custom Convertible 1951, the same model used by the country's first prime minister on his return from England.

The car will bear the same registration number as the one used 51 years ago, M 4442.

It will be done in conjunction with the launch of Merdeka Celebrations and Fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign, to be officiated by Abdullah.

Abdullah will also sign the 50th Merdeka proclamation as was done by Tunku on that historic night.

Several programmes have been lined up, including the screening of patriotic films such as *Sarjan Hassan*, *Embun* and *Leftenan Adnan*; fireworks show; *joget seribu* performance and patriotic songs performed by local artistes.

Also expected to grace the event is Malacca Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob.

On Wednesday night, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, when met after the full dress rehearsal for the campaign launch at Dataran Pahlawan, said: "We want to capture the nostalgia when a triumphant Tunku Abdul Rahman returned from London and was greeted by the different races.

"A choreography to depict this (the struggle for Merdeka) will be on display complete with the attire worn by the Malays, Chinese, Indians and other races those days."

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