

# National heritage status for 50

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Fifty national treasures in the form of buildings, historical sites, objects and cultural practices will be officially conferred *Warisan Kebangsaan* or National Heritage status.

The Kuala Lumpur Railway Station, which was completed in 1910, the Merdeka Proclamation read by Tunku Abdul Rahman at Stadium Merdeka on Aug 31, 1957 and the Parliament building are among the national treasures expected to be elevated from Heritage to National Heritage status.

The *wayang kulit*, *mak yong*, *sewang*, *ngajat*, *sumazau* and *Joget Melayu* are among others on

## Treasures will be declared on Friday

the National Heritage list.

Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim will make the official declaration of the 50 national treasures and the National Heritage Registrar at a ceremony at 9.30am in Parliament on Friday.

Heritage Department commissioner Datuk Prof Zuraina Majid said the declaration was the result of the National Heritage Act 2005.

"More national treasures will be conferred National Heritage status from time to time," "

she said yesterday.

Zuraini added that in conjunction with the launch, an exhibition would be held on heritage conservation and creation of a heritage trail in the city.

The exhibition will feature all 50 treasures and the various plaques to indicate the categories of Heritage and National Heritage, the conservation work done by the department since last year and the various historical landmarks.

A Merdeka Heritage Trail, involving 300 schoolchildren from rural areas in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Johor, will also be conducted.

Students will be taken on a guided tour to locations and buildings that played a part in the country's road to independence.

Traditional dances will also be performed at various locations in Kuala Lumpur, including Akademi Seni Budaya and Warisan Kebangsaan (Aswara), at 8.30pm on Friday, outside the Swiss Inn Hotel in Jalan Sultan at 8.30pm on Saturday and the Central Market at 11am on Sunday.