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# Koh: Make Sept 16 Malaysia Day

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Sept 16 should be declared Malaysia Day and be included as one of the country's celebrations, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said.

He said Malaysia Day should be celebrated to enable the younger generation to remember the significance of the day.

"There is no need for Malaysia Day to be a public holiday. There are already too many public holidays," he said.

Speaking after launching the "Pameran Merdeka — Kita Anak Malaysia" at Berjaya Times Square shopping mall here yesterday, he said he noticed that Malaysia Day was not really celebrated despite its significance in the country's history.

Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore came together on Sept 16, 1963 to form Malaysia.

It was originally planned for Aug 31, 1963 but technical issues forced postponement.

Singapore left the federation two years later.

Koh, who is also acting Gerakan president, opened the exhibition, organised by the party and National Youth Association of Malaysia, which showcased 28 panels to depict the historical timeline from the Malacca empire to independence, as well as Malaysia's achievements throughout the years. The ex-

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*Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon  
Penang Chief Minister*

hibition is held until Sept 30.

In his speech, Koh said Malaysia's diversity was its strength as the multilingual and multiracial communities worked together and lived in harmony.

He said they even managed to do business together to penetrate international markets such as China, India and western countries.

He added that the diversity must be preserved at all cost to ensure unity among the races continued to be enhanced.

Earlier, about 100 universities and college students gathered to have an open discussion ranging from national unity to urban poverty.

They later submitted Koh their suggestions on the new direction for Malaysia in the next 50 years.