

NATIONAL DAY PARADE IS BACK

Enliven National Month with well-wishes to friends, employers, families, urges Ismail Sabri

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AFTER two years of muted celebrations due to Covid-19, the annual National Day parade will return along with a host of activities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob urged Malaysians to enliven the National Day by hoisting the Jalur Gemilang.

“(We can) prove our love (for the country) by upholding good values, giving cooperation and exercising tolerance, supporting the government’s initiatives and disseminating only genuine and verified news.

“Spreading fake news, especially on social media, should be curbed before it becomes a practice that could affect the wellbeing of the Malaysian Family,” he said at the launch of National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang 2022 at Dataran Putrajaya yesterday.

He said social media could be used to enliven the National Month with well-wishes to friends, employers and families.

This year’s celebration, themed “Keluarga Malaysia Teguh Bersama”, reflected the harmony and peace in the multiracial country, he said.

He said that “Teguh Bersama” (strong together) referred to the Malaysian Family’s resilience and unity in facing challenges together.

“The spirit in Keluarga Malaysia Teguh Bersama should be embraced in our efforts to improve the wellbeing of the people in facing global economic challenges. I’m confident that nobody can disrupt our strong Malaysian Family when we do everything together.”

He said the National Day and Fly the Jalur Gemilang events are held in remembrance of the struggle for independence and to celebrate the capable adminis-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob flagging off the Kembara Keluarga Malaysia 2022 convoy in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC

BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

tration after gaining nationhood.

While no longer in the control of colonial powers, Ismail Sabri said Malaysia continued to face external threats that could disrupt the peace and harmony built since its independence on Aug 31, 1957.

“After fighting Covid-19, the country is transitioning to endemicity. The Malaysian Family is starting to return to a life that promotes its wellbeing, as how we were before the pandemic.”

At the event, Ismail Sabri flagged off the Kembara Keluarga Malaysia 2022 (KKM2022) convoy. Earlier, he and thousands of people walked 2.7km from Dataran Putra under the Berjalan Teguh Bersama programme.

Various activities are in store for the people in conjunction with the National Month and Wave the Jalur Gemilang celebrations. Among them are the National Day parade that will be held at Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 31 and the KKM2022 convoy, which will cover every state.

The programmes are being held in collaboration with the Communications and Multimedia Ministry, government agencies, government-linked companies and the private sector.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa said the National Day parade is making a comeback, albeit with a limited number of participants.

“Aug 31 (Merdeka Day) will be merrier than previous years with various activities and competitions for the people.”

He said the ministry received an overwhelming number of requests from groups to participate in the parade.

He said the KKM2022 convoy, involving 434 vehicles and 530 participants, would see a Jalur Gemilang Baton being passed at every checkpoint in the states across Malaysia.

The participants are from ministries, departments and agencies at the federal, state and district levels, as well as from non-governmental organisations and motoring clubs.

The convoy is aimed at highlighting the uniqueness of the Malaysian Family in each location, especially with regard to culture, food, attractions and community lifestyle.

It will end on Aug 31 at Dataran Merdeka.

Annuar said yesterday’s event would set things up for the activities lined up for National Day and Malaysia Day.

The competitions held in conjunction with National Day and Malaysia Day included Klik @ Merdeka, Smule Patriotic Star, Keluarga Malaysia Aspiration Patriotic Star, RIUH! Patriotic Star, MYDOODLE @ Merdecoloring, the “Pengisahan Kene-garaan” programme, the ILHAM Merdeka TikTok challenge and Sayembara Sajak Merdeka.

For more information, visit merdeka360.my/web/.