

Remember past heroes
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MERDEKA INSPIRATION: Founding fathers sacrificed a lot for independence, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: MALAYSIANS should not forget the struggles and sacrifices of the founding fathers in achieving the country's independence.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said past leaders had done so much in charting the country's progress to be where it is now.

"They had fought with blood, sweat and tears for the country's independence and we must protect our independence and sovereignty at all cost," he said at the launch of the Fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign in Little India Brickfields, here last night.

The programme was simultaneously launched at Kampung Baru by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Petaling Street by Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

The events at the three venues attracted huge crowds who stayed to watch the colourful display and show despite a drizzle throughout the evening.

Najib said the theme "55 Years of Independence, Promises Fulfilled" was chosen for this year's celebration to prove that the government had delivered its promises in bringing progress to the nation and the people.

"There were nations that became independent earlier than us but they did not progress as far as Malaysia.

"This government can guarantee a conducive environment that allows the nation to grow from an agriculture to an industrial economy.

"Now we are aiming to be a high income nation," he said.

Najib said the key principle behind the 1Malaysia concept was to roll out policies that were fair to all races. He also assured the people that their problems would be resolved by the government.

Najib later called on all Malaysians to fly the Jalur Gemilang everywhere to show to the world that they love the country.

In Kampung Baru, Muhyiddin said the many programmes and assistance by the government showed it had fulfilled its promises.

He said the theme was apt as the government implemented policies that ensured the welfare of people from all levels of society, from children and workers to the hardcore poor.

Muhyiddin said Kampung Baru was a historical place that witnessed events which led to the formation of Umno in May 1946.

"Umno had struggled to gain the country's independence, and this was achieved on Aug 31, 1957.

"We should be grateful for all the good things today brought by our freedom, thanks to past heroes and leaders.

"Our people have been lucky to be able to celebrate independence day without having to worry about outside threats," he added. Additional reporting by Kristy Inus

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