

**Opposition Aware Merdeka Day Theme Determined By Fededal Government  
Bernama  
Aug 15, 2012**

PADANG SERAI, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- The opposition parties were aware that the Merdeka Day theme, '55 Tahun Merdeka, Janji Ditepati', was not made by the states but by the federal government, but they deliberately created rhetoric when the states under their control intended to use different themes.

Kedah Umno liaison chief, Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah said the opposition's choosiong of different themes was only to deceive the public, whereas the same theme had been used nationwide for over 50 years.

He said this year's theme was decided by the federal government but the opposition did not want to use it as they were afraid of their own shadow because they had failed to fulfil their promises made during the 2008 general election.

"The Barisan Nasional government, on the other hand, always puts the people's interests first....they (opposition) are envious of what BN has done, so they create rhetoric," he said after handing over contributions in conjunction with the Padang Serai parliamentary constituency's Aidilfitri programme, here, Wednesday.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=688444>