

Merdeka songs, cheer in London
New Straits Times
September 02, 2012
By ZAHARAH OTHMAN

PATRIOTIC DISPLAY: 100 guests join in annual celebration with former PM, high commissioner

LONDON: THE leafy suburb of Hampstead in northwest of here came alive on the morning of Aug 31 as the air was filled with patriotic songs and cheers of "Merdeka!" coming from Rumah Malaysia, the residence of the Malaysian High Commissioner, Datuk Seri Zakaria Sulong, and his wife, Datin Seri Hazizah Ahmad.

Joining in the annual celebration were former prime minister Tun Abdullah Badawi and his wife Tun Jeanne Abdullah, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Razali Ibrahim and his wife, Datin Melisaa Shireen Munshir, Head of the Malaysian Paralympic team, Datuk Zolkples Embung and several Paralympic officials and athletes.

Zakaria delivered the prime minister's Merdeka Day speech to about 100 guests after the flag-raising ceremony, followed by a speech by Razali and Abdullah.

Although it was a working day for most Londoners, many had taken the morning off to witness the raising of the Jalur Gemilang and join in the celebration.

The high commission also holds an annual Merdeka Day reception for friends of Malaysia as well as Carnival Malaysia on Sept 22 at the Tun Abdul Razak Rubber Research Lab in Brickendonbury, north of here. The one-day event brings together Malaysians and friends of Malaysia from the country for an event filled with lots of food, fun and games.

Copyright © 2012 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/merdeka-songs-cheer-in-london-1.134053>