

**Najib Congratulates Sarawak For Success Of Malaysia Day Celebration**  
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KUCHING, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak congratulated the Sarawak government for its success in organising two major events, the decorated boat parade last night and the 50th Malaysia Day celebration at Padang Merdeka here Monday.

This was conveyed to Sarawak Housing and Tourism Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg , who is the minister responsible for programmes for the 50th Malaysia day celebration.

Abang Johari said the prime minister also congratulated participants involved in the Malaysia Day parade and the public who turned up to watch the celebration, despite the uncertain weather condition.

"The prime minister conveyed his appreciation to all those who took part, including the public, for making the event an enjoyable one," he told reporters here Monday.

Meanwhile, former national boxer Sapok Biki, who was among those who took part in the parade, hoped the involvement of sports icon in the parade would attract more people in Sarawak to be active in sports.

"It is an honour for us, Sarawak-born athletes who have brought glory to the country and hope this will motivate more people to participate actively in sports," said Sapok, now a boxing trainer at the Terendak Camp in Melaka.

For Awang Raweng, an Iban tracker and the sole Malaysian to have received the George Cross, the highest award given by the British to civilians for acts of bravery, said despite having to be on a wheelchair, he was happy to participate in the parade because it showed that his contribution in fighting the communists was not forgotten by the government.

Azhari Hamdan, 56, also a participant in the parade, attracted the public with is shirt, specially made for the occasion, using the Sarawak state.

He took part in the vehicle parade segment by decorating his scooter with the national and state flags.

"This is a manifestation of my love for Malaysia and Sarawak," he added.

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