

**Merdeka Day Culmination Of A Series Of Development - Ahmad Shabery  
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PUTRAJAYA, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- The independence date and its history should be remembered as the start of a trail towards the country's progress, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

He said in remembering the sacred date when the Union Jack was lowered, the people should realise that the independence was not merely a date, but also marked the culmination of a series of development.

"When we talk about independence, most people only think of the struggle towards the independence date.

"For example, we will remember historical dates such as the Second World War and the establishment of the Malayan Union," he said when launching a poetry anthology entitled 'Suara Kita: Antologi Seribu Sajak Merdeka' in conjunction with the Merdeka month here today.

The 1,424-page e-book featuring 1,000 poems written by 519 Malaysians, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Perak mufti Tan Sri Harussani Zakaria and national laureate Datuk Baharuddin Zainal (Baha Zain).

Edited and published by Persatuan Karyawan Perak with the cooperation of the Information Department, the e-book could be downloaded from the 1Klik JaPen portal.

Ahmad Shabery hoped the anthology would enable readers to interpret the meaning of the independence while some poems could be turned into songs or dramas to instil patriotic spirit.

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