

**Merdeka Stadium and Stadium Negara to Stay As National Landmarks - PM  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 (Bernama) -- The Merdeka Stadium and Stadium Negara will be retained as historical landmarks and heritage sites of the country despite the government's undertaking of the Merdeka Heritage Project in the area.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said both the stadiums reminded the people of the moments related to the country's independence.

"Stepping into the Merdeka Stadium brought back memories of the moments of our independence from foreign colonisation 59 years ago.

"Here too, we are reminded of the sporting spirits and the bitter-sweet struggles of our veteran football heroes at the national and international levels," he said in his Facebook posting tonight.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister launched the Merdeka Heritage Project which is a strategic real estate development project located in the Kuala Lumpur Golden Triangle and poised to play an important role in leveraging and maximising the value of the land bank.

The project will be developed by Permodalan Nasional Berhad on a 7.689 ha area and is expected to be fully completed in 2024.

The first phase of the project involved the construction of a 118-storey tower and a seven-storey shopping centre at a cost of RM5 billion and expected to be ready by 2020.

Najib, in his speech, said the project too would revive two national heritage buildings, namely, the Merdeka Stadium and Stadium Negara, proving that modern architecture and historical buildings can co-exist.

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