

National month platform to express appreciation for country

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MELAKA, July 31 (Bernama) -- The launch of the National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang at Dataran Pahlawan, Bandar Hilir here on Saturday serves as a medium to not only exalt the spirit of patriotism in society but also to honour the country' s independence warriors.

Melaka State Secretary Datuk Hasim Hasan said the event, to be held for the first time in Melaka, would provide an opportunity for the people of various races and religions to show their gratitude and love for the country through various activities.

“As Malaysians, we get to taste the many benefits of independence, made possible through the struggle of the past freedom fighters, and which will be impossible for us to enjoy without the strong cooperation, solidarity and unity among the people in the country,” he told Bernama here.

He expects about 30,000 people to attend the event to show their appreciation and gratitude to the past independence fighters of the country.

According to Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Melaka was chosen as the host for the event to commemorate the place where the independence of the Federation of Malaya was first announced at Padang Bandar Hilir here on Feb 20, 1956.

Dataran Pahlawan, also known as Padang Bandar Hilir, is a historic site where a crowd of about 50,000 welcomed the return from London of the delegation led by the first Prime Minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, to announce the country' s independence.

“The highlight is on Aug 3 with the Merdeka Run at 6 am, before the launch of the National Month celebration and Fly the Jalur Gemilang by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will then flag off the Kembara Merdeka Jalur Gemilang 2019.

“Several roads in Bandar Hilir will be closed in stages for the event and the public is advised to follow the instructions of police on duty in the area on that day,” he said, adding that several places have been identified as parking areas for those attending the programme.

Hasim, who is the co-chairman of the Working Committee for the Launch of the National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang 2019, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Gobind Singh, Melaka Chief Minister Adly Zahari and state executive council members are scheduled to attend the event.

He said that during the launch, visitors would be given an opportunity to have their pictures included in a montage that would be displayed in conjunction with National Day (on Aug 31) and Malaysia Day (on Sept 16).

There will be a special camera at Dataran Pahlawan on Aug 2 to snap their pictures, which will then be formed into a montage and displayed on LED screens at Dataran Pahlawan and Hatten Hotel in Bandar Hilir, he added.

He said the theme “Sayangi Malaysiaku, Malaysia Bersih” is in line with the state government's slogan “Melaka Berwibawa: Pintar, Hijau, Bersih” in addressing issues related to administration, integrity and corruption.

More information on the programme can be found on the official Facebook of the National Day and Malaysia Day celebration at Merdeka360 or at www.malaysiamerdeka.my.

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