



MEDIA INFO

MERDEKA 2006 CELEBRATIONS

This 31 August 2006 marks the 49th anniversary of Malaysia's national independence (*Merdeka*). Known locally as *Hari Kemerdekaan*, Malaysians show their appreciation for yet another year of harmony among the people, while being reminded of their country's struggle for independence, development and growth.

This national event helps to educate the Malaysian public, especially the younger generation, about the importance of racial tolerance, unity and cooperation so that the country can continue to enjoy prosperity, development and harmony.

The official launch of *Bulan Kemerdekaan* (Independence Month) and Raise the *Jalur Gemilang* Campaign on 17 August, 8pm, at Kuala Terengganu kicked off the month-long celebration of the event which lasts till 16 September.

In conjunction with the event, 50 divers painted the Malaysian flag underwater on 16 August at the marine park of Pulau Kapas offshore from Merang in Terengganu.

This year, the state of Sarawak is hosting *Ambang Merdeka* (Merdeka Eve) 2004 on 30 August along the waterfront and banks of the Sarawak River in Kuching. The night event will be marked

by procession of river floats and lively performances by leading recording artistes on a floating stage on the river.

On Independence Day 2006, the focus is on Merdeka field in Kuching as the national day parade will be held there in the morning of 31 August.

For most people unable to be present at the national level celebration in Kuching, live TV coverage will bring the event into their living rooms at home.

Meanwhile, state level processions with a strong local flavour will be held simultaneously at all state capitals and districts nationwide. The Merdeka festivities will also be observed in many different locations such as shopping complexes, parks, hotels, highways, schools and even factories throughout the country.

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