

BERNAMAPIX

## SEA OF JALUR GEMILANG

... Students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Kemesik waving the national flag while singing 'Keranu Malaysia' in celebration of National Day in Kemaman yesterday.



# Ex-cop remembers first Merdeka event

> Thambipillay treasures memory of the raising of national flag and lowering of the Union Jack

By P. CHANDRA SAGARAN  
[newsdesk@thesundaily.com](mailto:newsdesk@thesundaily.com)

**IPOH:** For former police officer Datuk R. Thambipillay (pix), National Day celebrations brings fond memories, especially when one was in the thick of action on the first Merdeka event on Aug 31, 1957, in Kuala Lumpur.

"I was then serving as an inspector at the police federal headquarters and was one of the officers in charge of security of the heads of nations.

"They were invited by the Malayan Government to attend the first Merdeka Day celebrations," he told *theSun* here yesterday.

"It was a proud moment and an auspicious day for me ... one which will be remembered for the rest of my life," said the former Ipoh city deputy police chief (crime) who retired with the rank of superintendent in 1984.

According to him, Lady Isabel Gurney, whose husband Sir Henry Gurney was killed in a terrorist ambush while on his way to Fraser's Hill for a meeting on Oct 6, 1951, was a special guest.

Thambipillay said the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) was still in force and Isabel was one of the last to return home after the celebrations.

"But she was unable to fulfil her desire to visit her husband's ambush site due to security reasons," he said.

The country's first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, was very concerned about security arrangements for the foreign dignitaries.

"For me, I will always treasure the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness and remember the raising of our national flag and lowering of the British flag.

"More importantly, Tunku's resounding voice of 'Merdeka' seven times, was very historical and will be forever remembered," he added.

Thambipillay joined the police force in



August 1949, virtually at the commencement of the Emergency, and served in various capacities.

He is no stranger to the Emergency with his career starting in Gemas.

Thambipillay went on to serve as assistant district police chief in Kuala Kubu Bharu and as district police chief in Tapah and Slim River/Tanjung Malim during the most turbulent years

of the Emergency.

He saw action against the enemy in 12 major operations in the jungle with the then Police Field Force (now known as General Operations Force), including operations in the Betong town at the Thai-Malaysian border.

He is known among his local and Commonwealth friends as the initiator of the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Anglican cemetery (better known as God's Little Acre) in Batu Gajah.

The annual remembrance ceremony is held to honour those who gave up their lives during the Emergency.

Thambipillay is currently the president of the Warriors Association of Malaysia.

## Pregnant in convoy last year, nurse is back again

**KUANTAN:** The experience of having joined a convoy of high-powered motorcycles in conjunction with the Merdeka Day celebrations last year at a late stage of pregnancy has given Zura Abdul an added impetus to join a similar convoy this year.

Zura, 33, has in fact joined the Merdeka Day campaign early this year to contribute her services under the Pahang state level 'Kembara Kasih Merdeka 2015' programme (East Zone) which started yesterday.

The petite woman will be riding on her Can-Am Spyder Roadster, manufactured in Valcourt, Canada, the same bike she was riding when she was pregnant last year.

"I was in my late stage of pregnancy when I joined the convoy last year and when we started riding, I started bleeding and through my experience as a nurse, I knew it was time for my delivery.

"Once the convoy was over, my husband Iskandar Shah Mohd Saat rushed me to the hospital," she told Bernama when met at the presentation of Jalur Gemilang flags for participants of the 'Kembara Kasih Merdeka 2015' programme in Pantai Balok, here.

Zura, who has 12 children, said her 'Merdeka' child was born on Sept 1, 2014 and was named Irbah Assiffa Wafiyya.

## Two new fighting vehicles in parade

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Two units of the Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV25), named Gempita, will be showcased at Dataran Merdeka in conjunction with the National Day 2015 celebration on Aug 31.

The two Gempita are among the latest assets of the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) and were received from Deftech DRB-Hicom Defence Technologies Sdn Bhd last year.

ATM affairs department head Lt Col Bakhtiar Nor Md Alias said the two vehicles were among 100 assets to be displayed by ATM on that day.

"We cannot reveal about the other ATM assets for security reason, but the public can view these assets at the National Day (parade)," he told Bernama yesterday.

He said 3,400 members of the army, navy and air force would take part, while 30 planes and helicopters from the forces would be used for the air show during the celebration.

"There will also be an anti-terrorist demonstration by ATM, which we actually hold annually during the celebration," he said.

## Nazri launches Emergency monument

**SUNGAI SIPUT:** Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz yesterday launched the Malayan Emergency Monument and Gallery in remembrance of security forces, planters, civilians and workers who lost their lives during the Malayan Emergency from 1948 to 1960, and its resurgence from 1973 until 1989.

It was initiated by the Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA) of Perak.

Nazri said the incident created a new history for Malaya with Sungai Siput becoming a centre of attention worldwide.

The communists, he added, launched a campaign of murder, arson and destruction to disrupt the economy and instil fear into the people.

He said Malaysia's position today is accredited in no small way to those who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

"I hope the state government will create a historical trail package to attract tourists to the monument and gallery," he added.

MPOA Perak chairman R. Sivalingam said the monument and gallery is located at the very site where three European planters were murdered.

He said the site is preserved because of its historical significance.



Harchand Singh (right) explaining some of the historical facts to Nazri at the gallery in Sungai Siput yesterday.

Recollecting the history, Sivalingam said the triple murder is still talked about by locals in Sungai Siput despite it happening six decades ago.

The killing of the three European planters in Sungai Siput by Malayan Communist Party guerrillas triggered off the Malayan Emergency on June 16, 1948.

On that day, Elphil estate manager A. E. Walker was shot in cold blood at his office desk at 8.30am.

About 30 minutes later, some 1.6 km away, manager J. M. Alison and his assistant Ian Christian of the Phin Soon estate were tied and mercilessly shot by 12 terrorists.

## Selfie doctor may get the sack

**PUTRAJAYA:** The doctor who took a selfie while attending to a patient in labour at a Johor Baru hospital recently may have her service with the Health Ministry terminated.

Nevertheless, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said any impending action against the woman depends on the investigation by the ministry's disciplinary committee, which might see her suspended or facing administrative action.

"What the doctor did was very serious and it is against the ethics of medical practitioners," Subramaniam told reporters at the ministry, here, yesterday.

A photograph of the female doctor attending to the patient was circulated on social media recently. In the photograph, the doctor even flashed a "peace" sign.

"Imagine that, it is not easy for some to become (graduate as) a (medical) doctor because it takes years and is very costly but because of one photograph, her (the woman doctor's) future appears bleak," he noted.

On Tuesday, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rohani Karim said the patient's family could take action against the doctor.

Subramaniam hoped the unfortunate incident would not recur. - Bernama

P. CHANDRA SAGARAN/THESUN