

Euphoric Merdeka memories

> 80-year-old reminisces 'greatest' moment in history

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GEORGE TOWN: Every year on Merdeka Day, a senior citizen will reminisce about being present when the first premier of the country, Tunku Abdul Rahman, proclaimed the country's independence at Stadium Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 31, 1957.

Yusoff Azmi Merican, 80, said he still felt the euphoria and excitement of being part of the historic moment.

"I was only 18 then, and at that time we did not have the luxury of travelling to other states.

"Together with two of my friends, we took a train on Aug 29 to Kuala Lumpur," he told *theSun* at his home in Jalan Kelawei recently.

Yusoff said the train was packed with people who also had the same intention of witnessing the historic event.

The Penang Free School student who has a strong interest in history, said his teacher, whom he referred to as Mr Davis, had encouraged them to go to Kuala Lumpur.

"Mr Davis, who was from Scotland, told us that our country was going to have a

big moment in history, so we should go and witness it."

The former headmaster of Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Francis Light also kept the National Day programme booklet that was written in Jawi titled *Perayaan Kemerdekaan Ibu Kota Persekutuan - Aug 27 hingga Sept 8*.

Yusoff said the booklet has details and photographs of the Tunku, the new Cabinet and organising committee.

He also owns a collection of newspaper articles about the first day of Merdeka notably from the *Straits Times*, *Straits Echo* and also *Singapore Standard*.

Yusoff also recalled that it rained heavily on that day which forced the celebration to be postponed for several hours.

The crowd who was there since early morning was drenched, but that did not dampen their spirit, he said.

"When Tunku arrived with the other dignitaries, I felt a rush of patriotism," he said.

"The celebration that day was the greatest, no Merdeka celebration after that could beat that," he said.



MASRY CHE ANI/
THESUN

Yusoff with his collection of newspapers that carry articles on the Merdeka Day celebration in 1957.

Special pewter medallion to mark 'new Malaysia'

PETALING JAYA: To commemorate the new Pakatan Harapan government, Royal Selangor has released a special medallion.

The "New Malaysia Limited Edition" pewter medallion titled *Sayangi Malaysiaku* was launched at its headquarters in Wangsa Maju in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The theme is in line with the National Day theme this year.

Measuring 2.5 inches, the medallion marks May 9 as the date of the birth of the new Malaysia and its carvings illustrate the power of the people.

This medallion is available at all Royal Selangor shops. Each medallion costs RM125 and 20% from the sale of every piece will go towards Tabung Harapan Malaysia.



BERNAMAPIX

A Royal Selangor staff showing the special edition 'Sayangi Malaysia Ku' pewter medallion.

Another public viewing of RFP documents

GEORGE TOWN: The Penang government plans to again put up for public viewing of the Request for Proposal (RFP) documents for the Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP) by Sept 1.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said this was to benefit groups which had expressed concern over the project.

He said the RFP documents were put on public display last year at Dewan Sri Pinang. PTMP is a state-initiated project costing

an estimated RM46 billion and features an undersea tunnel linking the island to the mainland, highways, LRT, monorail as well as extensive bus connectivity on both the island and the mainland.

Chow, who is the assemblyman for Padang Kota, said that since December 2015, the Penang government had conducted 965 sessions for stakeholders on the state transport initiatives included in the PTMP. - Bernama

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