

## 400 drummers ready to rock the crowd on National Day

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PUTRAJAYA: A performance by 400 drummers of various races is expected to rock the stage at the 2023 National Day celebration at Dataran Putrajaya here, this Thursday.

The attraction at the performance will be the "Achun Spinning Drum".

The drum, weighing 3kg and made of synthetic material, was designed by a lecturer at the Music Faculty of the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (Aswara), Shamsul Kamal Abd Rahman.

Shamsul, better known as Cikgu Achun, obtained the trademark from the Malaysian Intellectual Property Corporation for the musical instrument this year.

It would be the debut of this drum at a national event, he said.

### NATIONAL-DRUM 2 PUTRAJAYA

"I designed the drum in 2015 after returning from a music festival in South Korea.

"I just obtained the patent for it and am now using it for performances," said the choreographer for the drum performance at the upcoming National Day celebration.

Shamsul, who holds a Bachelor's degree in music from Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), said he came up with the idea of producing a rotating drum as the only drums available were all static.

"The drums we have now are made of wood and animal skin. When it rains, there will be a problem because the drums cannot get wet, but not the drum that I designed because it is made of synthetic material."

He said the drummers would consist of 400 people, including members of kompiang groups from Aswara and UiTM.

Also involved in the performance are 762 dancers from the National Department of Culture and Arts (JKKN) and 600 schoolchildren, he added.

Shamsul, who is from Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan, said the performance by the group would be accompanied by three songs — Malaysia Madani, Jalur Gemilang and Kurik Kundi, a song popularised by the country's Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza Tarudin.

JKKN Deputy Director-General (Culture and Arts) Rosnan Nordin said the dancers involved with the parade had been training for three months to ensure a mesmerising performance at the National Day celebration which is expected to attract 100,000 visitors.

"They will be on the performance stage with the drum group throughout the event."

He said the song, Kurik Kundi, would be sung by several artistes, namely Nadeera Zaini representing the Malay community, Suki Low (Chinese), Roshini Balachandran (Indian), Zizi Kirana (Sabah) and Hazraniza Dollah (Sarawak) to reflect the unity of the people of Malaysia.

This year, more than 19,000 participants will be involved in the National Day parade.

The 2023 National Day celebration, themed "Malaysia Madani: Tekad Perpaduan, Penuhi Harapan" (Determination in Unity, Fulfilling Hope), will be held in Putrajaya on Aug 31.

This is the fifth time Putrajaya is hosting the National Day celebration. The previous times were in 2003, 2005, 2018 and 2019.  
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