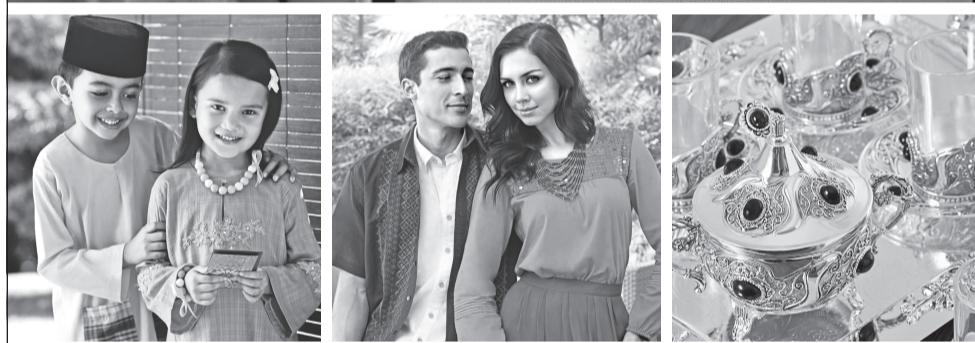


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*Melinda Kaur Bhullar  
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THU 26 - SUN 29 JUNE 2014

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B.PGK HQ (JM) 2014/138/5

# Big do for Merdeka joy

> Major events to be sponsored by corporate sector

BY ELLY FAZANIZA

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PUTRAJAYA:** This year's 57th Merdeka celebrations will be a huge affair but with minimum government expenditure, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

The corporate sector will be encouraged to participate and sponsor the major events, he added at the pre-launch of the event at his ministry here yesterday where the Merdeka logo was launched.

The logo depicts the number 57 with the Malaysian flag design intertwined in it.

This year's theme is "Malaysia ... Di Sini Lahirnya Sebuah Cinta" ("Malaysia ... Where Love Grows" which is taken from the lyrics of the song titled "Warisan" sung by the late Sudirman Arshad).

He said the theme was chosen to inculcate and ignite the spirit of love for the

country in each Malaysian.

On the cost for the celebrations, he said it was presented to the Cabinet and it factored in the contributions of corporate entities through sponsorships and holding of events as part of their branding exercise.

"The ministry will acknowledge the sponsors' contributions by having their logos on our T-shirts which have the number 57 on one side of the sleeves," he said. He hoped the celebrations would not be marred by certain quarters holding protest rallies and urged Malaysians to study the meaning behind the struggle for the nation's independence.

Earlier, Ahmad Shabery presented a mock cheque for RM7,000 and a certificate to Abdul Mutalib Abd Rahman, 47, from Kuala Lumpur for his logo design which was selected for this year's celebration.



**MALAYSIA**  
Di Sini Lahirnya Sebuah Cinta



Mutalib Abdul Rahman with a mock cheque for his winning logo.

## Businesses more receptive to consumer complaints

BY KHALIL MAJEED

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Companies are now addressing consumer complaints more effectively and faster when channelled directly to them so much so the National Consumer Complaints Centre (NCCC) is seeing a drop in the number of complaints filed.

In revealing this, NCCC chairman Datuk Dr Marimuthu Nadason said they received 40,650 complaints last year as compared with 41,963 the previous year.

"This could be reflective of companies addressing complaints channelled directly to them, without having the need to approach NCCC for its assistance," he told reporters at the launch of the 2014 Complainfest and NCCC Annual Report 2013 at Cititel Midvalley.

Elaborating on some of the complaints received, he said topping the list was 7,652 complaints against the general consumer product sector, 6,404 on the Telco sector

and 5,763 on retail services and e-commerce industry.

The others include 4,915 complaints against the automobile industry and 2,313 on the travel and leisure industry.

In terms of monetary value, Marimuthu said, complaints related to the automobile sector topped the chart with RM22.182 million which is a dramatic increase as compared with RM9.544 million the previous year.

"In 2012, potential losses due to complaints were nearly RM21 million. However, in 2013, potential losses increased to RM61.7 million," said Marimuthu adding that as far as the NCCC is concerned, they want to negotiate, mediate, and solve consumer issues free of charge.

He reassured the industry that the NCCC was not out to "bash any industry" but wanted to cooperate with them so that consumers will be able to get value for money.

He said consumers are now smarter, vocal, and more aware of their rights.

## Kidex ready to meet residents, Suhakam

**PETALING JAYA:** Kinrara-Damansara Expressway (Kidex) Sdn Bhd has expressed its willingness to meet up with the residents and Malaysia Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) regarding its project which had received much criticism.

Kidex CEO Dr Shaharizuan Shafiee said that the group has followed the rule of law and abided with regulatory requirements set by the authorities. He said when the relevant authorities grant approval, they will organise a meeting session.