

Great time watching Merdeka Day parade

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KUALA LUMPUR: After two years of lockdowns and restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Malaysians are thrilled to be out celebrating the 65th National Day at Dataran Merdeka here yesterday.

Some of them took public transport to the city centre as early as 6.30am to avoid traffic. Others chose to park their vehicles far away and walk 30 minutes to the venue.

One of them was Yvonne Chin, 50, who was attending the National Day parade for the first time with nine members of her family.

"I am very excited about the celebration because it's two years since Covid-19 and the implementation of the movement control order, when we could not celebrate National Day.

"It is very crowded here and

there are many people. My family and I had to park far away. We walked for about 30 minutes to Dataran Merdeka to witness the celebration.

"This is my first time. Next year, I hope to come again," she told the *New Straits Times*.

Mohd Hishamudin Abdullah, 25, also expressed excitement over the celebration because he was able to watch the much-loved parade.

The private sector employee from Kajang, Selangor, said he took the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) train at 7am to get to Dataran Merdeka to avoid the crowd.

"Since there has been no large-scale celebrations for two years due to Covid-19, this time I decided to experience the excitement of Independence Day for myself. The celebration was very lively. I was



Various contingents marching past the grandstand at Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

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amazed by the performance of the jet fighters," he said.

Another visitor, N. Vijayalatchmy, 56, said her daughter encouraged her to attend the celebration.

The kindergarten teacher from Damansara Damai, Selangor, said she and her three daughters were very happy to watch the parade despite the crowd.

"It was worth it even though we had to travel to Dataran Merdeka by MRT. There were so many people on the train.

"When I got there and saw the celebration, I felt inspired and was filled with the patriotic spirit.

"I have always watched the National Day celebration on television (in the past). The most ex-

citing part of the parade is watching the jet fighter performance live," she said.

Page 1 pic: Visitors and participants in the 65th National Day celebration at Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.