



## Stadium Merdeka Set To Reopen Its Doors On 17 August

By **admino** - July 23, 2024

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Nestled in the heart of the Merdeka 118 precinct, a sleeping giant is about to awaken.

Stadium Merdeka, the iconic venue that witnessed Malaysia's birth as an independent nation, will reopen its doors on 17 August after a long period of restoration and revitalization.

For many Malaysians, Stadium Merdeka has been a distant memory, a relic of a bygone era.

Despite its immense historical significance, the stadium has largely been forgotten, overshadowed by the country's rapid development and modernization—however, all that is about to change.

*This is an aerial view of Stadium Merdeka, a beacon of Malaysia's past and future standing tall amidst the urban landscape of Kuala Lumpur. (Pix: Fernando Fong)*

## Guardians of Heritage: Stadium Merdeka's Meticulous Restoration and Revival

PNB Merdeka Ventures, the custodian of this national treasure, has been working tirelessly to restore the stadium to its former glory.

Liza Karim, Head of Communications at PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn Bhd (PNBMV), expressed the company's pride in announcing the reopening of Stadium Merdeka, stating, "This iconic venue, a symbol of our nation's heritage, has been meticulously restored to its 1957 state to ensure it remains a place of pride for all Malaysians."

The restoration process has been a labour of love, carefully considering every detail to preserve the stadium's original charm.



*Workers meticulously restore the hallowed grounds of Stadium Merdeka. In the background, the towering Merdeka 118 symbolises Malaysia's progress, a striking contrast to the stadium's timeless charm. (Pix: Fernando Fong)*

The stadium's iconic shell roof, the longest dual-direction cantilevered structure in Southeast Asia in 1957, has been painstakingly restored to its former glory.

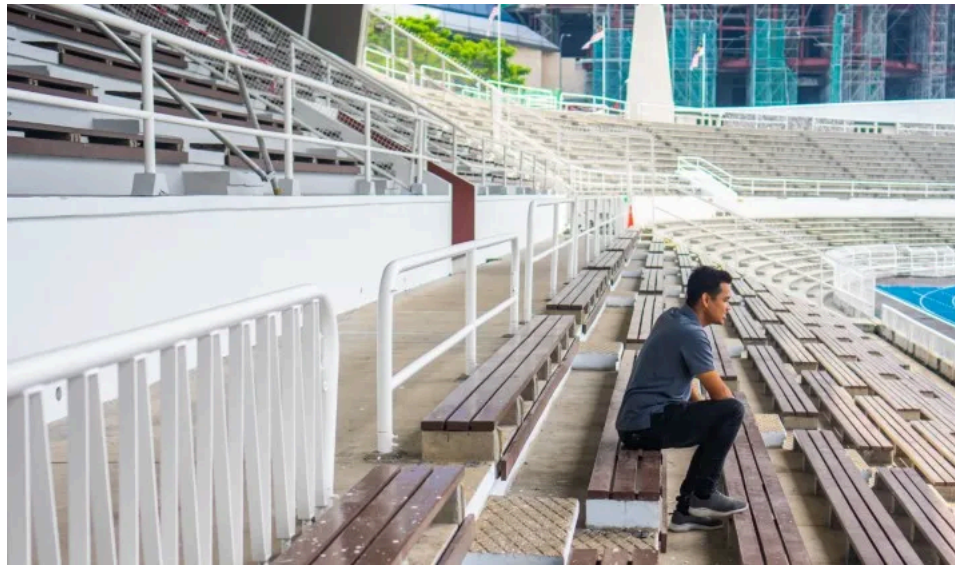
The seating terraces have been returned to their original capacity of 20,000 seats, while the display board has been reconstructed to its original form.

Even the floor tiles at the main entrance have been restored to their 1957 state, ensuring visitors will be transported back in time as they step into this hallowed ground.

As Stadium Merdeka prepares to reopen, it is not just a celebration of the past but also a promise of a brighter future.

The stadium will once again become a hub of activity, hosting sporting events, cultural celebrations, and community gatherings.

It will be a place where Malaysians from all walks of life can unite, united by a shared sense of pride and belonging.



*Echoes of Yesteryear: Stadium Merdeka's meticulously restored seating terraces, now returned to their original 20,000-seat capacity, stand as a testament to the stadium's glorious past. (Pix: Fernando Fong)*

## Stadium Merdeka's Revival as a Beacon of Unity and Pride

The reopening of Stadium Merdeka is not just about preserving a piece of history; it is about reigniting the spirit of a nation.

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The Sultan of Selangor's Cup (TSSC), an annual friendly football match, will be the first event to grace the newly restored Stadium Merdeka on 17 August.

This symbolic gesture reminds us of the stadium's rich sporting heritage and role in bringing people together.

## A Nation's Resolve: The Remarkable Construction of Stadium Merdeka

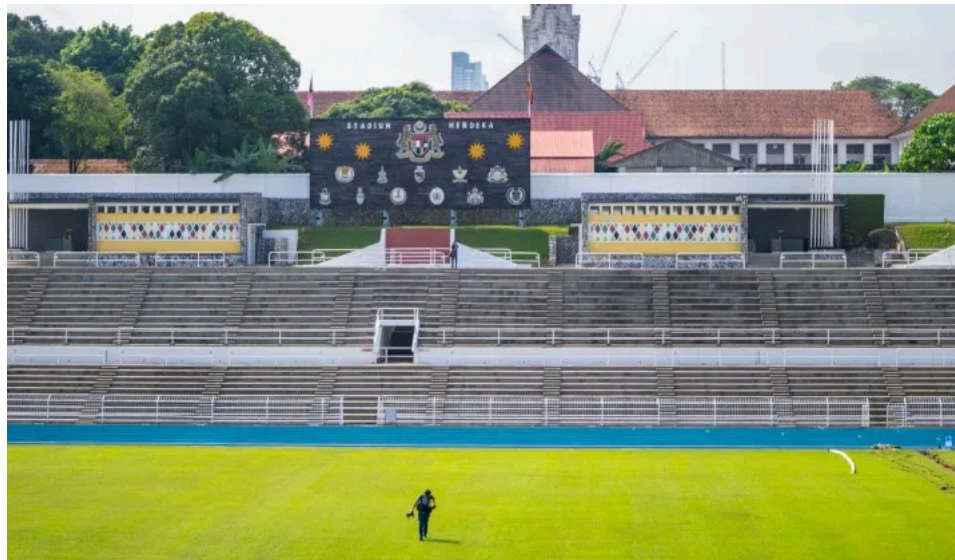
As Malaysians prepare to step into Stadium Merdeka once more, they will be walking in the footsteps of their forefathers, those who witnessed the birth of a nation on that fateful day in 1957.

Constructed in just 11 months, Stadium Merdeka was a marvel of modern engineering when it opened its doors the same year.

At that time, it was the biggest stadium in Southeast Asia.

The stadium, the brainchild of Tan Sri Stanley Edward Jewkes, the Director of the Public Works Department of Malaya, was built using 160 architectural design drawings, 200,000 tonnes of earth removed, 10,000 tonnes of concrete, and 700 tonnes of steel reinforcement.

The result was a structure ahead of its time, a testament to the ingenuity and determination of a young nation on the cusp of independence.



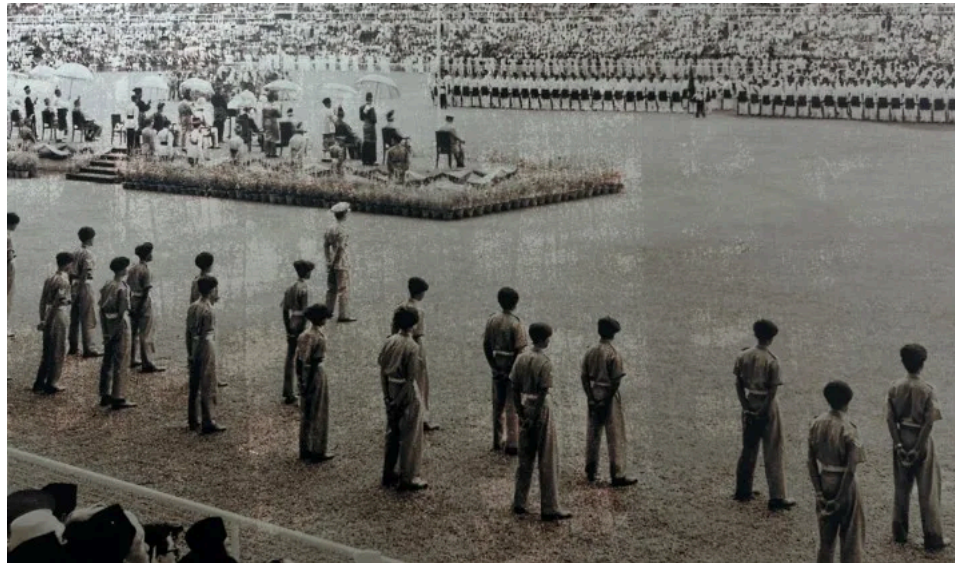
*Through the Lens of History: A photographer traverses the hallowed turf of Stadium Merdeka, capturing the essence of a nation's soul. The restored scoreboard, adorned with the emblems of Malaya's states, stands as a silent guardian of the stadium's rich heritage. (Pix:*

## From Merdeka to World Stage: Stadium Merdeka's Iconic Past and Triumphant Return

On 31 August 1957, Stadium Merdeka witnessed a defining moment in Malaysia's history.

It was here that the Malayan flag was raised for the first time, signalling the birth of a new nation.

The stadium's capacity crowd of 20,000 people watched in awe as Tunku Abdul Rahman, the country's first Prime Minister, declared Malaya's independence, echoing through the stands and across the nation.



*Frozen in Time: A nostalgic black and white photograph displayed within the walls of Stadium Merdeka transports viewers back to the fateful day of 31 August 1957. (Pix: Fernando Fong)*

Over the years, Stadium Merdeka has hosted numerous other significant events, from the 1965 Southeast Asian Peninsular Games to the 1975 World Cup qualifier between Malaysia and Japan.

The same year, legendary boxer Muhammad Ali fought against European Champion Joe Bugner at Stadium Merdeka, which became a focal point in Malaysia then.

It was a significant event that left a lasting impression on the country.

However, as time passed and the country grew and developed, the stadium began to fade from the public consciousness, its glory days seemingly consigned to the annals of history.

But now, thanks to the tireless efforts of PNB Merdeka Ventures, the custodian of this national treasure, Stadium Merdeka is ready to reclaim its rightful place in Malaysians' hearts.

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