

# NETIZENS WANT A STOP TO COMMENTS BELITTILING MERDEKA DAY

by [Amira Nutfah Zulkifli](#)  
The Mole



Written by [Amira Nutfah Zulkifli](#)

**KUALA LUMPUR – Aug 29, 2016:** Netizens have strongly criticised those who questioned and belittled the relevance of celebrating Merdeka Day this August 31.

Their opposition and dissatisfaction was triggered by [an article](#) in a news portal which insisted that Malaysia became independent on September 16 and not August 31.

They argued that this is inaccurate and insisted that the official proclamation of independence for Malaysia was made on August 31, 1957.

The article, written by a student of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak Dewwit Ferrer Motijun, contended that Malaysia was never colonised or liberated, and that it is a federation formed by Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore on September 16, 1963, before the latter left the federation in 1965.

“It is clear that Malaysia as the new federation was only formed on that date, and not on August 31, 1957. There is no ‘independence’ for us to celebrate, as the country is ‘formed’, not ‘freed’.

“If the government is serious in uniting the people and building a united and stable administration, it should give greater recognition to September 16 and stop celebrating ‘independence’ on August 31,” he argued.

With National Day just two days away, several Facebook users deem that the claim by Dewitt is akin to ‘promoting a separatist agenda’.

Socio-political commentator and lawyer **Lukman Sheriff Alias** questioned thus: “How can FMT publish such stupidity and lie? Every Merdeka for the past few years they have been doing this.

“These people have not even read the Malaysia Agreement 1963 but pretend to uphold it. Ridiculous nonsense,” he wrote.

Lukman had also reposted a Facebook status, which reads: “The secessionist’s claim that ‘we should not celebrate Merdeka but Malaysia day’, is wrong. This is because for all intent and purpose when Sabah and Sarawak joined the federation, August 31 had always been the date where we were supposed to be joined.

“This is expressly stated in Article 2 of the Malaysia Agreement. Sabah and Sarawak is to join the federation on Malaysia Day. And Article 2 defines Malaysia Day as August 31. From there onwards the Federation of Malaya is to be called Malaysia.

“We can celebrate both. But August 31 is the date of the founding of our nation. It means that Malaysia never started afresh with a new entity.

“Contrary to the secessionist propaganda, it is a continuation of a federation. Don’t be confused by these secessionists’ false propaganda. These are the worst kind of Malaysians seeking to split us apart based on lies.”

**Khairuzzaman Muhammad** commented: “Merdeka Day in the [federal Constitution](#) is August 31, 1957. These people are obviously ignorant and have never studied the definition of ‘Merdeka Day’ in the Constitution.”

**[Julita Ihani](#)** also commented that the sad part is there are still some Malaysians buying this rubbish.