



Visitors can visit the National Museum for free on International Museum Day. (Inset) Museums Department director-general Ibrahim Ismail

# Museums celebrate by throwing open their doors

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Museum buffs, take note!

Today is International Museum Day, and more than 25 museums nationwide are waiving their entrance fees.

All state museums are organising activities for the whole family as well.

The participating museums are members of the Museum Association of Malaysia and include the National Museum, the Royal Malaysian Police

Museum, the Telekom Museum here and Muzium Adat in Seremban. What a perfect way to learn more about our history and culture.

Museums Department director-general Ibrahim Ismail said people should take the opportunity to learn more about the country's museums.

"Museums are more than just a place to exhibit old and historical materials.

"They contribute to social change and development and play a role in nation-building."

This year's theme is "Muse-

ums as Agents of Social Change and Development".

Ibrahim lamented the fact that International Museum Day is not celebrated in Malaysia on as big a scale as other events.

However, the celebration here is unique as museum staff from all over the country gather for the celebration, said Ibrahim.

"Museums in other countries have their own activities, but they do not come together as one big family," he said.

It is time for museum cele-

brations to be on par with National Craft Day, for instance, so more people will recognise a museum's function in shaping society, he said.

Ibrahim hopes the Unity, Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry will help to mark International Museum Day in the future.

This year, the week-long celebration will take place in the Klang Valley from Tuesday. Among activities lined up for museum department staff nationwide are seminars, exhibitions, football tourna-

ments, golf competitions and other outdoor activities.

The public can join the staff this Saturday in the museum-thon and treasure hunt. Register online at [www.museum.gov.my](http://www.museum.gov.my) or get the form at the National Museum before or on that day.

International Museum Day was first celebrated in 1978, one year after it was established by the International Council of Museums, a non-governmental organisation with formal relations with Unesco.