

# Indonesian

Hari kemerdekaan Indonesia ada pada tanggal 17 Agustus 1945 di mana presiden pertama kami Soekarno berikud dengan wakilnya Muhammad Hatta memproklamasikan kemerdekaan setelah Jepang mundur dan menyatakan berada perang sejak hari itu 17 Agustus merupakan hari spesial dan dijadikan hari libur nasional bagi negara saya Indonesia setiap bulan Agustus rakyat turun pemegang bendera merah putih di rumah-rumah mereka untuk menyatakan kebanggaan kami atas kebebasan dari kolonisasi para penjajah karena akhirnya Tanah Air kami Indonesia bebas setelah 30 dekade tertindas oleh baik Belanda maupun Jepang pada hari tersebut bagi biasanya dimulai dengan siaran TV nasional di mana upacara bendera besar-besaran diselenggarakan di istana Presiden di sini ratusan siswa anggota Paskibra dari Sabang sampai Merauke dipilih dan diseleksi untuk bertanggung jawab atas upacara nasional ini dan mengibarkan bendera yang katanya bahkan dijahit oleh tangan dan jari istri Presiden pertama kami Fatmawati saat bendera dikibarkan kami akan menyanyikan lagu nasional yakni.

Indonesia Raya sambil berdiri tegak dengan posisi hormat menghadap bendera yang pelan-pelan dinaikkan setiap melakukan penghormatan seperti ini jujur rasanya sangat bangga menjadi warga negara Indonesia mungkin karena lagu Indonesia Raya sendiri yang memang fotonya benar-benar meriah setelah Menonton siaran live tersebut biasanya akan ada perayaan dalam berbagai macam ragam ada lomba balap karung di mana warga biasa pakai karung beras di kaki dan turut melompat sampai ke ujung garis finish Lalu ada lomba makan kerupuk di mana tangan kami biasa Diikat Di belakang dan kami disuruh makan kerupuk yang ada digantung pada seutas tali di atas kepala di sini kami berlomba untuk memakan kerupuk tersebut dan siapa yang paling kecil pada akhir timer atau habis duluan lah pemenangnya Selain itu ada lomba panjat pinang di mana biasa dipasang berbagai macam hadiah yang digantung pada tali yang diikat pada ujung atas pohon pinang yang dilapisi pelicin dan warga akan memanjat yang tersebut sambil mengambil bendera yang diikat di atas.

Ini siapapun yang paling cepat lah pemenangnya 3 lomba tersebut hanyalah sedikit dari banyak perlombaan lain yang biasa diselenggarakan pada 17 Agustus ada juga yang lain termasuk tarik tambang lomba lari dan masih banyak lagi kalau di sekolah walaupun hari tersebut libur nasional biasa kami akan tetap menghadiri upacara bendera wajib lalu akan pulang untuk menonton upacara bendera nasional di istana presiden atau bahkan Perlombaan di lingkungan rumah rumah masing-masing namun keesokan harinya yang biasa diadakan adalah sekolah mewajibkan kami siswa untuk datang dengan kaos merah dan celana atau rok putih lalu kami akan berpartisipasi dalam berbagai macam games yang dilanjut dengan para dan mengibarkan bendera dan memutar sekolah sebagai tanda perayaan kemerdekaan games-games yang pernah saya ikut adalah tarik tambang makan kerupuk dan D karet dengan busana merah putih. Pada waktu itu saya juga pernah menggambar muka Soekarno pada dinding sekolah dan hal tersebut merupakan pengalaman yang sangat seru pada dasarnya perayaan 17 Agustus.

Di mana seluruh Indonesia Turut berduka cita atas kemerdekaan bangsa kami di hari ini walaupun warga Indonesia sangat beragam baik dalam ras etnis agama bahkan budaya sekalipun 17agustus mempersatukan kami semua karena pada akhir hari Kamis mau lahir dibesarkan dan tinggal di satu tanah air Indonesia.

# English

Indonesia's Independence Day is on the 17th of August back in 1945 where our first President and Vice President Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta proclaimed a notorious speech of independence after the Japanese retreated from our country during the war. Ever since then, the 17th of August has been marked a special day of celebration and also proclaimed as a national holiday for my country, Indonesia.

Every August, it has become a traditional custom to hang our red and white flag which is the national symbol of our country in our respective homes as a statement of our people's pride and joy of the freedom gained from 30 decades of struggles, wars, tragedies, rebellions, and countless deaths because, at long last, we are free from the rocks of colonization.

On this day, the morning usually starts with us watching a live recording aired on national television of the very big and respectable flag ceremony held in the Presidential Palace. In this ceremony, hundreds of students from sabi mearuke in the Paskibraka society of their schools were recruited every year to perform the ceremony on presidential grounds. A handful of them are even responsible for raising the very flag that Fatmawati, the wife of our first president, hand sewed by herself. When the flag is being raised, we will hold our stance and raise our arms as a sign of respect towards our forehead while singing our national anthem, Indonesia Raya. And to be honest, while doing this position and singing our hearts out, there is always a sense of overwhelming pride in our hearts as an Indonesian. But this might also be due to the very joyous and overbearing melody of the song Indonesia Raya itself.

After watching the live airing of the flag ceremony, often at times, our neighborhoods will hold our own very similar yet different set of games under the guise of a small festival for people, usually the youngsters, to compete in. Firstly, there's Balap Karung which is essentially a race where you put your feet inside a rice or potato sack and hop towards the finish line. Next, there is a game called Lomba Makan Kerupuk which is also a type of race where people's hands are tied up behind their backs and a big cracker or kerupuk is tied way above their heads on a rope and whoever finishes their kerupuk first or has the tiniest size amongst their peers wins. Next there is also another type of race called Banjat Pinang where sets of gifts are usually tied to a pinang tree that is usually coated with lubricants. And what to do here is to basically climb the tree, pick a gift tied at the top, and snatch the flag. Whoever climbs the fastest wins. Now, the games that I've mentioned are only a small glimpse of every other types of competitions held during our Independence Day celebration.

There are other varieties in the bunch including Tarkik Tambang, Lumba Lari, and many more. In my school, on the other hand, even though the 17th August is supposed to be a national holiday, us students are still required to attend a compulsory flag ceremony held by the school very early in the morning on that holiday. After that, we are sent back home to either watch the live airing of the national flag ceremony or enjoy the rest of the day competing in the small festivals in our respective neighborhoods. The next day, however, schools usually ask us to strip our uniforms and dress up in red and white colors. We will then participate in traditional games such that I have mentioned previously and do a small parade around our school's territory while we're using our small paper or plastic flags and basically celebrate our

independence. In the past, I have joined games such as Tarki Tambang, which is basically tug-of-war. Lomba Makan Kerupuk, and Class Decorating where we decorate the class in red and white colors based on our flag. One time, I even got the chance to draw Soekarno,, our first President's portrait and hang it on the class wall as part of the decoration which was a very interesting experience and a story to tell for another time.

At the end of the day, 17 August is a day of celebration and a day we're all of Indonesia disregarding our diverse races, cultures, ethnicities, and even religions gather around to celebrate our independence not as different individuals but as proud citizens of our nation. On this day we are united as people who are born, raised and will continue to live in our beloved home, Indonesia.