

INSIGHT

WTC COMMUNITY WEEKLY



Heroes Amongst Us

Happy 75th Independence Day, Indonesia!

Every August, you will see national flag raised in front of houses, ceremonies, red and white decoration, traditional games being played in open spaces with prizes up for grabs, and brands giving out 17% or 45% discounts. That is basically how Indonesians celebrate the national holiday.

I remember competing in all sorts of games too. *Balap karung* (sack race), *makan kerupuk* (eating rice cracker hung on a rope), *dandan tutup mata* (blind makeup), *joget balon* (balloon dance). But never the *tangkap belut* (eel hand-fishing) or *panjat pinang* (pole climbing). Never ever.

Now, on this very special day known as *17-an* (read tujuh belasan, or 17-ish in translation, referring to the date August 17), we start the day with nationwide independence ceremony. It is observed at schools, at housing complexes, private institutions and government agencies. State ceremony headed by the President is one to look for, it is festive yet thoughtful as we remember our fallen heroes and founding fathers who fought bravely to give this country its long-awaited independence.

This time around though, we are thankful for other heroes, those who are not necessarily historical/faces-on-bank-notes kind of heroes. But those who keep us going.

It could be our parents, our partners, our children, our friends, even our pets and complete strangers doing random acts of kindness. It's the doctors, nurses, and all medical personnel putting their lives at high risk in this pandemic, it's the farmers who plough on their fields day and night to keep foods in stock, it's the drivers, *ojek* and couriers delivering goods to our doorstep, it's the anonymous donors, it's the innovators who make things much more convenient.

It can be you, it can be anyone.

After all, not all heroes wear capes.



Yours trully,
the community editor