

31 AUG 1996

COLOURFUL START TO 39TH NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- The 39th National Day celebration today kicked off on a colourful note with 94 contingents taking part in a mammoth parade at the Likas Sports Complex, some three kilometres from here.

Sabah is hosting the national-level celebration for the first time.

The 12,000-strong parade started at 7am but the participants from organisations in the public and private sectors arrived as early as 5.30am.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah as well as Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai and his wife Toh Puan Hajah Rukaiyah Datu Panglima Abdullah witnessed the parade which also included men on horseback and vehicles.

Also present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee and wife Datin Stella.

In addition to federal and state ministers, diplomats from some 70 countries were also present. -- BERNAMA

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