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King launches MRCS' 50th anniversary

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar today launched the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society at Muzium Negara.

Tuanku Ja'afar, who is the society's patron, also launched the 50th anniversary logo with the theme "50 Years of Humanitarian Service" and an exhibition on the MRCS's activities.

The logo will be used in commemorative stamps and on first day covers issued by Pos Malaysia Berhad while the exhibition will be open to the public until June 30.

On arrival, Tuanku Ja'afar was greeted by the society's national chairman Tun Abdul Hamid Omar and later inspected a guard of honour to the accompaniment of the MRCS marching band.

Also present were Pos Malaysia executive chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmood, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail and members of the diplomatic corps.

Hamid said the society's celebrations coincided with the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day observed by 174 national societies worldwide.

Hamid said members of the society, acting as an auxiliary to the Government, had served humanity in more ways than its original aim to protect and save lives during disasters.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his message on the souvenir programme said the role played by the society and all non-governmental organisations was important to national development.

Dr Mahathir said NGOs in Malaysia should be wary of being easily influenced or acting as the voice of foreign NGOs.

The Prime Minister said the Government hoped local NGOs were not used as a tool by foreign elements to destroy the good image of the nation in the eyes of the world.

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