

31/08/1998

50,000 turn up for Konsert Suria Merdeka

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - More than 50,000 people turned up at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre Park last night for the Konsert Suria Merdeka, the first concert to be held at the city's latest public park since it was opened to the public a month ago.

The park, officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, was reminiscent of parks of the world's major cities like London's Hyde Park or New York's Central Park during public events.

While the concert was held near the KLCC's open parking lot, which covers only a small portion of the 20-hectare green lung, the audience spilled out of the area. Some of them were there as early as 7pm.

A roar of delight emanated from the crowd as the show, featuring some of the nation's top artistes, started at 8.45pm with popular comedian Imuda playing master of ceremonies.

This was followed by a colourful cultural performance by the Petronas Cultural Troupe.

The crowd's response continued to be overwhelming as artistes like Liza Hanim, Amelina, Ning Baizura, Anuar Zain, Innuendo, Noraniza Idris and Poetic Ammo took turns to entertain them with their numbers.

At 11pm, the crowd was ready to leave as the artistes assembled to sing patriotic songs, namely the 16th Commonwealth Games' theme songs, Never Let The Spirit Die and Satu Wawasan.

But they soon took to their places again as Imuda announced more goodies for the evening - performances by female rock star Ella.

After three songs which cheered up the audience again, Ella made way for popular male rocker Amy who turned the previously relatively mellow evening into a hard rock and heavy metal affair.

While the mood was already feverish as more and more members of the crowd swayed and danced to the tunes, more was to come with the presence of local prodigy M. Nasir.

His mystically-flavoured songs accompanied by feverish performance thrilled the audience as almost all stood up and danced.

Nasir ended the concert with his hit song Rajawali.

The three-and-a-half hour concert was organised by Persatuan Akademi Industri Muzik Malaysia and was backed by Astro, Petronas, Esso, Maxis, Tanjung Golden Villa, KLCC and Mandarin Oriental.

(END)