

06 JUL 1998
Muhammad-Birthday
MAULIDUR RASUL PROCESSION

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- About 12,000 Muslims took part in a procession from Dataran Merdeka to Pusat Islam here this morning for the Maulidur Rasul celebration to mark Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman led the procession which began at 8am.

This year's celebration which carries the theme "Kesejahteraan Negara Tanggungjawab Kita" (Nation's Peace Our Responsibility) will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Pusat Islam.

In a drizzle, the procession made its way through Jalan Parlimen and Jalan Cenderawasih.

Civil servants, university and college students, corporate sector and religious groups were among those taking part in the procession.

Other events have also been lined up for the occasion. They include the presentation of the Maulidur Rasul Award and nasyid performances.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, about 1,000 people attended the celebration at Wisma Darul Iman.

The Sultan of Terengganu, in his speech, reminded Muslims that the current economic downturn did not make it right for them to be slow in practising Islamic teachings.

He wanted them to revive the practice of visiting each other and having gotong-royong to strengthen the ties of brotherhood and love.

In KUANTAN, Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said the state government had its own programme to tackle the economic problems, including raising food production under the Pahang Food Production Enhancement Plan.

Speaking at the state-level celebration at the State Convention Hall, he said that under the plan, efforts would be undertaken to develop nine food production parks and 35 nucleus orchards on a commercial scale.

Di KOTA KINABALU, Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai led 75 contingents comprising about 6,000 Muslims in a procession from Padang Merdeka to Masjid Negeri in Sembulan.

Other events including a banner competition and the presentation of the Maulidur Rasul award to six recipients in the state were also held attended by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Sultan of Kelantan, Tuanku Ismail Petra, is scheduled to attend the state-level celebration at Masjid Tuanku Ismail Petra, Kubang Kerian, tonight.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, Deputy Menteri Besar Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman and state executive councillors are also expected to turn up.

In PULAU PINANG, over 2,000 Muslims attended the gathering at Masjid Bayan Baru.

Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir, in his speech at the function, reminded Muslims not to sell the country's dignity or betray it for personal gains and profits.

In SIBU, Sarawak Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Datuk Patinggi Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Mohammad Nor called on the people to be more sensitive to elements that could disrupt the wellbeing of the state and country.

He said this need to be alert at all times was all the more pertinent and necessary as the country now faced an economic downturn.

He later led a procession of about 3,000 people for two kilometres accompanied by Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud.

In SEREMBAN over 5,000 Muslims crowded the Seremban Municipal Council hall for the state-level celebration after a planned gathering at Padang NS fizzled out because of the rain.

The Regent of Negeri Sembilan Tunku Naquiyuddin Tuanku Ja'afar led the procession around the town after the rain stopped.

In ALOR SETAR, the celebration was held at Masjid Zahir last night attended by the Sultan of Kedah, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and about 500 people.

Similar gatherings were held at mosques in all districts.

In MELAKA, over 5,000 Muslims braved the rain for the state-level procession.

Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin led the procession which started at Stadium Kubu at about 8.45pm and ended at the Masjid Al Azim compound.

-- BERNAMA

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