

30 JAN 1998

Hari Raya-Round-Up

MUSLIMS CELEBRATE HARI RAYA ON A MODERATE SCALE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Muslims throughout the country celebrating hari raya on a moderate scale maintained the traditional spirit of joy while observing thrift in view of the current economic slowdown.

Muslims, having observed a month's fasting, started the day by attending prayers in mosques throughout the country.

Many of them also visited the graves of relatives before going on their rounds to hari raya open house held by friends and relatives.

The economic downturn caused by the fall in the value of the ringgit, which has forced the people to be thrifty, however did not dampen the Hari Raya celebrations which is continuing immediately after two days of Chinese New Year revelry.

Today, many people took the opportunity to visit the open house also hosted by political leaders in line with the Malaysian tradition.

In Kuala Lumpur, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and the Raja Permaisuri Agung Tuanku Najihah accompanied by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad attended Hari Raya prayers at the National Mosque together with the rakyat.

Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah were earlier given an audience by the royal couple at Istana Negara at 8.15am.

Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah also received cabinet ministers, Muslim members of the diplomatic corps and other VIPs at Istana Negara.

In SHAH ALAM, the Regent of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah attended Hari Raya prayers with more than 5,000 Muslims at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque.

The Menteri Besar, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, and Muslim state Exco members also attended the prayers.

The Regent is holding open house at Istana Bukit Kayangan from 10.30am to 12.30pm and from 2.30pm to 5pm.

Abu Hassan is also holding open house at his official residence at Bukit Megawati, Section 7 in Shah Alam from 10am to 5pm.

In Melaka, intermittent rain did not deter Muslims from attending Hari Raya prayers, visit graves and call on relatives and friends.

At the Masjid Al Azim about 9,000 people joined the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin for prayers.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin, Muslim Exco members and senior government officers were also present at the mosque. Syed Ahmad later received guests at his open house at Istana Melaka.

Abu Zahar also held an open house for the public at his official residence at Seri Bendahara, Bukit Peringgit.

In PEKAN, the Sultan of Pahang attended Hari Raya prayers at the Masjid Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Muslim state Exco members were also present at the mosque.

Khalil later entertained guests at his open house at the Dewan Konvensyen, Jalan Teluk Sisek in Kuantan.

In Kota Bharu, the Sultan of Kelantan accompanied by the Tengku Mahkota and senior government officers offered Hari Raya prayers together with thousands of other Muslims at the Masjid Muhammadi.

After the prayers, the Sultan and Tengku Mahkota greeted Muslims and later met people of various races at the Istana Balai Besar nearby.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat attended prayers at the Masjid Pulau Melaka.

In Pulau Pinang, the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir joined thousands of Muslims to offer prayers at the Masjid Negeri.

He later listened to the Hari Raya khutbah given by the Imam Besar of Masjid Negeri Ustaz Abu Bakar Abdullah before greeting the people.

The Hari Raya celebrations in the state appeared to be on a moderate scale.

In ARAU, the Raja and Raja Perempuan of Perlis joined thousands of his subjects for Hari Raya prayers at the Masjid Negeri. Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and state Mufti Datuk Alim Panglima Mat Jahya Husin were also present.

The royal couple later received VIPs and the rakyat at the open house at Istana Arau from 9.30am to 11am.

Meanwhile in KANGAR, the Raja and Raja Puan Muda of Perlis held an open house at the Kompleks Warisan, Jalan Kolam.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, about 2,000 Muslims attended prayers at the Masjid Sultan Zainal Abidin.

The Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad held an open house at Sri Iman.

In ALOR SETAR, the Sultan of Kedah, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, state Exco members attended prayers at Masjid Zahir while the Sultanah of Kedah and other Muslims prayed at the Balai Besar.

Meanwhile for the first time, about 200 people participated in a procession along several main roads in Alor Setar.

In IPOH, the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, the Raja Muda Raja Nazrin Shah, Raja Permaisuri Perak, Tuanku Bainun and the Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and his wife attended prayers together with about 800 people at Masjid Ubudiah, Bukit Chandan in Kuala Kangsar.

Ramli later entertained the rakyat at an open house held at his residence in Jalan Raja di Hilir.

In KOTA KINABALU, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai attended prayers with thousands of Muslims at the Masjid Negeri in Sembulan.

Tun Sakaran later held an open house at Istana Negeri for VIPs and the people. -- BERNAMA

TEAM DSR AAM