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## Colours of Malaysia Parade launched

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah tonight launched the inaugural Colours of Malaysia Parade which showcased the country's potpourri of cultures and rich legacy.

It was truly a show of colours and splendour with performances by 29 groups representing all States, bringing together the different races and ethnic communities - each presenting its own traditions, costumes, cultures and arts.

Held in conjunction with the King's installation, the three-hour parade at Dataran Merdeka also served as a grand finale for all events and celebrations held throughout the year.

Thousands lined the pavements on both sides of Jalan Raja.

The event was also telecast live by all local television and radio stations.

The parade began in Jalan Isfahan in front of the Sogo Shopping Complex and proceeded through Jalan Raja Laut, Lebuhr Pasar and Jalan Persekutuan before ending at Dataran Merdeka.

Among VIPs present were the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and other Ministers.

Living up to this year's theme of "Unity in Diversity", the air reverberated with the sound of drums beaten in unison as soon as the King launched the event.

The event is set to become an annual affair.

The crowd gasped with delight to see among others a troop of 30 Bajau horsemen, horse-drawn carriages, bullock carts and a variety of trishaws from various States.

Traditional dances unique to the respective States also succeeded in captivating the people's attention. The graceful Sumazau and Ngajat dances from Sabah and Sarawak were performed, as were the Dondang Sayang from Malacca, Sewang dance of the Orang Asli and gendang tarinai from Perlis.

There was also a fireworks display.

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