

16 OCT 1999

Citrawarna

COLOURS OF MALAYSIA PARADE LIGHTS UP KUALA LUMPUR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- The federal capital was transformed into a city of gaiety tonight as performers put up various cultural dances in the colours of Malaysia parade.

The colourful procession was launched by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah in front of the famous Kuala Lumpur landmark, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad.

About 4,000 participants took part in the procession reflecting the beauty and wealth of Malaysian culture and mesmerised the thousands of spectators including invited guests and tourists from abroad.

Millions of Malaysians also watched the event which lasted more than two hours through live telecast courtesy of Radio Television Malaysia.

The event was held to mark the installation of the 11th Yang di-Pertuan Agong and was also witnessed by Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and members of the cabinet were also among those who witnessed the procession.

Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad was brightly lit with multi-coloured lights while a fireworks display lighted the sky above.

The procession projected the uniqueness of Malaysia, bringing the various races and ethnic groups together in a harmonious atmosphere and performing their respective cultural dances.

Thirty horses from the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) horse unit and their riders in traditional Malay warrior's costumes also took part in the procession while Bajau horse riders showed off their skill in handling their horses.

In conjunction with the event, the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism simultaneously launched the "Colours of Malaysia Month" while hotels and tourist resorts throughout the country are being colourfully decorated to reflect the characteristics of Malaysian cultural.

The parade started with the beating of the Gendang Seratus (100-drum) of the various races and ethnic groups.

The Colours of Malaysia parade ended with the theme song "Malaysia Truly Asia" composed by Datuk Ahmad Nawab and sung by Khatijah Ibrahim.

All participants of the parade gathered in front of the royal dais to together sing the theme song.

The theme song was also sung in 10 different foreign languages.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AO