

19 JAN 1999

Raya-Roundup

MALAYSIAN MUSLIMS CELEBRATE AIDILFITRI WITH JOY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Muslims from all walks of life celebrated Hari Raya Puasa today with joy although not as lavishly as in the past years of economic boom.

Moderation and pragmatism seemed to be the order of the day as they marked the end of their month-long fast of Ramadan with new clothes and "open house" where they welcomed friends and kin with specially cooked food.

Many of them had returned to their hometowns to celebrate aidilfitri with their loved ones and to seek forgiveness from each other for any inadvertent wrongdoing, this being the day to renew bonds and to start afresh.

Steeped in tradition, they made their way to the nearest mosque first thing in the morning for their prayers and thanksgiving to Allah.

In the federal capital, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Najihah, accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, were among the thousands who performed their prayers at the National Mosque.

Present were newly-appointed Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, several cabinet ministers and ambassadors of fellow Muslim nations.

In KUALA KANGSAR, the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, performed Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Ubudiah in Bukit Chandan with over 2,000 of his subjects. Present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and other state dignitaries.

After the prayers, the sultan held open house for special guests at Istana Iskandariah while Ramli held open house at his official residence in Jalan Raja Dihilir.

In JOHOR BAHRU, the Sultan of Johor and members of the royal household performed prayers with Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, state executive councillors and about 2,000 people at Masjid Sultan Abu Bakar.

Abdul Ghani later held open house at his official residence, Saujana, in Jalan Abdul Rahman Andak.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Sultan of Terengganu, Tengku Mizan Zainal Abidin Mahmud, performed prayers at Masjid Almutafibillah Shah, accompanied by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and state dignitaries.

After the prayers, the sultan visited the royal mausoleum in the mosque compound and later held open house for his subjects.

Wan Mokhtar also held open house at his official residence in Seri Iman until 4pm today and will hold another one at his house in Cukai, Kemaman, on the third day of Hari Raya.

In ARAU, the Raja and Raja Perempuan of Perlis performed prayers with their subjects at Masjid Negeri. Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and the state Mufti, Datuk Alim Panglima Haji Mat Jaya Hussin.

The royal couple later held open house for state dignitaries and the public at Istana Arau while the Raja Muda and the Raja Puan Muda held open house at Dewan Warisan, Jalan Kolam, in Kangar.

In KUCHING, Sarawak Yang diPertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Zaidi Aduce Muhammed Noor and his wife Toh Puan Rosmiati joined about 5,000 Muslims for Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Jamek Negeri in Petra Jaya.

Joining the congregation were Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud

and his wife, Puan Sri Laila Taib, as well as other Muslim federal and state cabinet ministers.

Ahmad Zaidi later held open house for state dignitaries and heads of department at the istana in Petrajaya while Abdul Taib received guests at his residence in Demak Jaya.

In KOTA KINABALU, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Haji Sakaran Dandai joined 5,000 Muslims in the state capital for Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Negeri.

He and his wife, Toh Puan Hajah Siti Rukaiyah Panglima Abdullah, later received state dignitaries and members of the public at Istana Negeri.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Sultan of Kelantan performed the prayers with 5,000 subjects at Masjid Muhammadi and held open house at Istana Balai Besar from 9.15am to 10am before visiting his parents graves at the royal mausoleum in Langgar.

Meanwhile, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat performed prayers at the Pulau Melaka mosque attended by about 3,000 locals.

He later held open house at his residence.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa prayed at the Bukit Marak mosque and held open house at his residence, Sri Puri in Bukit Marak.

In SERI MENANTI, the Regent of Negeri Sembilan, Tunku Naquiyuddin Tuanku Ja'afar, performed prayers with about 1,000 people at Masjid Tuanku Munawir and visited the royal mausoleum next to the mosque.

Later, he and Tengku Puan Muda Nurul Hayati held open house for the people while Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad and his wife, Puan Sri Hazizah Tumin held open house at their residence in Jalan Taman Tasik Seremban.

In MELAKA, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin joined over 10,000 Muslims, including Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin and state executive councillors and senior government officers, for prayers at Masjid Negeri Al-Azim.

Syed Ahmad later held open house at Istana Melaka while Abu Zahar received well-wishers at his official residence, Seri Bendahara, in Bukit Peringgit.

In ALOR SETAR, the Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah joined Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and 1,000 other Muslims for Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Zahir.

The sultan later received his subjects at the palace in Anak Bukit while Sanusi held open house at his official residence in Mentalon.

In SHAH ALAM, the Sultan of Selangor performed prayers at Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah together with the Raja Muda, Tengku Idris Shah, members of the royal household, Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, state executive councillors and about 16,000 other Muslims.

After the prayers, the sultan received his subjects at Istana Bukit Kayangan while Abu Hassan held open house at his official residence in Bukit Megawati.

-- BERNAMA

KM/ih JK