

26 JUN 1999

Prophet-Birthday (Roundup)

NATION OBSERVERS PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- More than 12,000 people took part in a procession to mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. today from the Hockey Stadium to the Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil here.

The procession which began at 8am was led by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman who is chairman of the main celebrations of the Maulidur Rasul National Level Celebrations 1420 Hijeriah.

During the procession the people from all walks of life recited prayers for peace and prosperity of the nation.

This year's celebrations themed "Muslim Unity Will Bring Success" were launched by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah. The Raja Permaisuri Agong Her Majesty Tuanku Siti Aishah was also present.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife were among the other dignitaries present at the celebrations being held for the first time at the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil.

In KUANTAN, the Sultan of Pahang addressing the faithful at a state level celebration urged them to learn from the struggles of the Rasulullah SAW in all aspects of life.

The Sultan said Nabi Muhammad SAW was born and raised to bring about a big change in human civilisation and the Prophet built a progressive and disciplined system

The function at the Dewan Konvensyen was also attended by Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob and his deputy Datuk Hasan Ariffin.

In KUCHING, some 10,000 people took part in a procession which stretched three kilometres and it wound through the city's main streets before assembling at Padang Merdeka.

Launching the celebrations, Sarawak Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Mohd Noor said that for Muslims brotherhood and unity should be the priority in their daily lives.

"Without unity, peace and a common thinking towards a single objective and aim, it will be difficult for us to attain success," he said,

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said unity of the Ummah particularly in Sarawak was very important as it formed the basis for success in all aspects of life.

In SEREMBAN, The Regent and Tunku Puan Muda of Negeri Sembilan, the four Undangs and the Tunku Besar of Tampin joined some 2,000 people in a procession held to mark the occasion.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad was among the other dignitaries in the procession which started at the Municipal Council Padang and passed through several main streets before returning to the padang.

Speaking before the procession began, Mohd Isa said Muslims must return to the true teachings of Islam and should not be confused by elements who claimed they wanted to put right certain things in this country.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu reminded Muslims not to be easily influenced by the enemies of Islam, who were out to destroy Islamic societies and countries everywhere.

He said Islam's enemies would easily achieve their goals if Muslims did not abide by the teachings of Rasulullah SAW.

Also present at the celebrations at the State Islamic Administrative Centre, Seri Iman Complex, were Permaisuri Nur Zahirah, Menteri Besar Tan

Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and state dignitaries.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad wanted Muslims to consider the celebrations as the platform to cherish the struggle of the Nabi Muhammad SAW to develop the Ummah.

He said it would be unfortunate if the celebrations were only considered as a routine function with some ceremonies and the important aspect of upholding the struggles of the Prophet was forgotten.

In IPOH, the Regent of Perak Raja Nazrin Shah speaking at the state level celebrations at the Dewan Bandaran here, urged the Islamic Affairs Council to increase its activities to help Muslims face current issues and challenges of the new millennium.

The Regent also reminded people who claimed to be Ulamas and propagators of Islam to be more careful when airing their views or when interpreting the verses of the Quran so as not to confuse the Ummah.

In KOTA KINABALU, more than 6,000 Muslims took part in a gathering at the Padang Merdeka.

The function which included poster competitions, singing of the nasyid and recitation of religious poems was attended by Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Haji Sakaran Dandai.

Also present were Toh Puan Hajah Siti Rukaiyah Datuk Panglima Abdullah, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam and State Cabinet Ministers.

Celebrations were also held in Tawau where more than 5,000 people took part in a procession which stretched one kilometre from the Bangunan Majlis Perbandaran Tawau to the Dewan Masyarakat Tawau.

In JOHOR BAHRU, the Sultan of Johor reminded Muslims to enhance the functions and role of mosques and suraus in efforts to step up the teachings of Islam.

Muslims at present were increasingly distancing themselves from the grace of Allah SWT and hence they should return to the true teachings of Islam, he said when launching the Maulidur Rasul celebrations at the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Sultanah Zanariah of Johor, the Tengku and Tengku Puan Mahkota of Johor, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and State Executive Councillors.

In PENANG, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir said it was not suffice to just hold processions to mark the Maulidur Rasul celebrations as there were still many unresolved social problems pertaining to drug abuse, child abuse and disruptions in the family institution among Muslims.

Hence Muslims should look for the source of all these problems so as to prepare for the challenges of the new millennium, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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