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PM opens Petronas Twin Towers in glittering ceremony

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officially opened the 88-storey Petronas Twin Towers in a glittering ceremony in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Malaysians came by the thousands to watch a dazzling display of lights and colourful laser rays that caressed the Petronas Twin Towers ... a spectacle that could be seen kilometres away.

The magnificent show was televised live on RTM1 and Astro.

The celebrations began with the recital of a poem, *By The Towers*, specially written by national laureate Datuk A. Samad Said. Following that, the Petronas Philharmonic Orchestra performed four compositions, which included three patriotic-themed songs. The Petronas Cultural Group then presented a traditional candlelight dance.

After that, a group of children who represented the future generation ushered the Prime Minister to officially open the Twin Towers.

Dr Mahathir signed a plaque at a special light sculpture which was later projected on a giant screen installed just below the skybridge linking the towers.

As the music began, viewers were taken through a spectacle of meaningful images presenting the story and the achievements of Malaysia and the rakyat.

The Twin Towers were then silhouetted against the night sky gleaming like towering jewels.

With images of a myriad Malaysia splashed across the screen and at the imposing towers, a burst of fireworks illuminating the sky and the sound of traditional Malay music in the background ... there was a palpable mood of patriotism and pride in being Malaysian among the crowd.

Dr Mahathir in his speech said: "We certainly have to look up to see the towers. When one is short, one should stand on a box to get a better view. The Twin Towers is to our ego what the box is to the shorties."

The Petronas Twin Towers is proof that Malaysia is by no means a "shorty". The 452m high structure embellished by gleaming pinnacles is currently the tallest building in the world - something that surely all Malaysians are proud of.

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