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The Colours of Malaysia

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Fireworks and drum rolls burst into the night as the Citrawarna Malaysia parade was launched by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah tonight.

It marked the beginning of the Citrawarna Malaysia or Colours of Malaysia Month 2000.

Cultural songs and dances from various states were performed before thousands, including foreign tourists.

Each state put on a magnificent performance with a kaleidoscope of colours and costumes to showcase the nation's history and culture.

Cultural troupes displayed the interesting features of every state.

Malacca, for instance, displayed trishaws and bullock carts, while Penang put on a boria and chingay performance. There was even a Bahtera Millenium II from Sarawak which was a replica of an ark, filled with ethnic dancers.

Among those present were the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, in his opening speech, said: "We hope to make the Colours of Malaysia parade better in the future. The parade is also significant for Malaysians as it highlights the fact that despite our unique diversity, we can still build a beautiful and harmonious country."

Over 1,300 local and foreign guests enjoyed the performance.

After the show in front of the historic Sultan Abdul Samad building, the parade proceeded along Jalan Raja Laut, Jalan Semarang and Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

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