

04 JUN 2001

Maulidur (Roundup)

MAULIDUR RASUL CELEBRATIONS OBSERVED ON MODERATE SCALE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- Thousands of Muslims gathered at padangs and stadiums across the country to take part in celebrations marking the birthday of Prophet Mohamad S.A.W.

The national level "Maulidur Rasul" celebration was observed on a moderate scale by all levels of society who gathered at the Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil here.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah launched the Maulidur Rasul celebrations this year.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajjah Siti Aishah, 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 Datin Seri Endon Mahmood were also present at the stadium.

The celebrations with the theme "Unity Nucleus for the Development of the Ummah" began with the Maulidur Rasul procession at 8am at the Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil led by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, Cabinet Ministers and the faithful.

Ten persons were presented the "Anugerah Maulidur Rasul" for their sacrifice and invaluable contributions to the wellbeing of the people and the country.

Each recipient received RM2,000, a watch, certificate and books published by the Islamic Development Department of Malaysia (Jakim) from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

In SEREMBAN, some 3,000 Muslims joined in the Negeri Sembilan level celebrations graced by the Yang di-Pertuan Besar, Tuanku Ja'afar, at the Seremban Municipal Council Padang.

Addressing the faithful, Tuanku Ja'afar urged Muslims to avoid unhealthy activities which could bring about enmity and conflict among them.

Present at the function were the Undang of Jelebu, the Undang of Johol, the Undang of Rembau, the Undang of Sungai Ujong, the Tunku Besar of Tampin, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Utama Tan Sri Mohamed Isa bin Datuk Abdul Samad and State Executive Councillors.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Maulidur Rasul celebrations were also held on a moderate scale. All mosques in Kelantan last night held the solat hajat and was followed by the majlis tahlil.

There were also religious talks presented by guest speakers and they spoke on the history and glory of Islam during the time of the Rasulullah S.A.W.

In KUANTAN, the Pahang level celebrations were centered at the Dewan Jubli Perak Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah.

Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah of Pahang in his address asked Muslims to return to the teachings of Islam based on the Al-Quran and Sunnah so as to restore the glory of Islam.

Muslims should emulate the personality of the Rasulullah and his followers in their daily lives, he said.

Among the 2,000 people present were the Sultanah of Pahang Hajjah Kalsom, the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah and Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob.

In ALOR SETAR, the Kedah level celebrations began last night at the Titi Baru Mosque in Kepala Batas.

The Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah, the Raja Muda, Menteri Besar Datuk

Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and state executive concillors joined some 1,000 people in the celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, the Sultan said Muslims must adhere strictly to the teachings of the Al-Quran and Sunnah as this would help them keep clear of social problems.

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Fawzi Mohd Basri led the Maulidur Rasul celebrations at the university in Sintok.

UUM Principal Assistant Registrar (Public Relations) Mohd Zaini Nasri said some 5,000 people comprising staff and students including the 300 non-Muslim students at the university also took part in the gathering and procession at the campus from the Sports Complex to the Sultan Badlishah Mosque about 3.5km away.

In BINTULU, Sarawak Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin in launching the state level celebrations, urged the people of various races to preserve the friendship and unity among them to ensure continued economic development in this globalisation era.

Tun Salahuddin said he was stressing the importance of the spirit of tolerance among the various communities not only in the interest of the present generation but also for the peace and tranquility of future generations.

Speaking at the same function, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud listed several fields where the image of Islam could be further projected in the world.

These included the economic, educational and scientific fields which would bring progress to any country in the world provided there was support from the people at all levels.

Abdul Taib also urged Muslims to forget past misunderstandings and disputes and not think only of themselves as this would prove to be a loss to Muslims as a whole.

In IPOH, some 2,000 people joined in the Perak level Maulidur Rasul celebrations which began at 8.45am.

The celebrations were also attended by Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak, the Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Bainun, the Raja Muda, Raja Nazrin Shah and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali.

The celebrations began with the reading of the verses from the Al-Quran by the champion of last year's International Quran Reading Competition Radzi Kamarul Hailan.

After the speeches by the Sultan and the Menteri Besar there was a reading of the "Selawat" by the "Selawat Group" of the Sultan Idris Shah II Mosque (State Mosque) and was followed by a talk on Maulidur Rasul by the Perak Mufti Datuk Seri Harussani Zakaria. The celebrations ended with the nasyid presentation.

Meanwhile in KUALA TERENGGANU, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu launched the state level Maulidur Rasul celebrations at the Kompleks Seri Iman.

Sultan Mizan urged Muslims to remain united if they wished to be held in highe esteem and become a power to be reckoned with like during the time of the Rasulullah.

The problem with Muslims at present was that they were weak and backward arising from disunity and conflicts among themselves, he said.

He urged Muslims to realise that the gathering in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul being held every year was not merely to know the life of the Rasulullah.

"More importantly, it is to enable to learn from the life of the Rasulullah," he said.

Among the other dignitaries present were Terengganu Menteri Besar Abdul

Hadi Awang and state executive councillors.

In MELAKA, some 4,000 Muslims joined in a procession led by Melaka Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin.

The three-kilometre long procession began at the Sekolah Sultan Muhammad at Batu Berendam and ended at the Kompleks Al-Azim, Bukit Palah.

Also present were Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam and state executive councillors.

A total of 73 contingents representing government departments and agencies, the private sector, youth associations, universities, schools and non-governmental organisations also joined in the procession.

An Islamic Trade Expo was also held at the complex in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul celebrations.

In JOHOR BAHRU, the Sultan of Johor urged Muslims to practise Islamic teachings and also deepen their knowledge of their religion so that they could live well in this world and the hereafter.

Addressing some 5,000 faithful gathered at the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque on the occasion of Maulidur Rasul, the Sultan said Muslim Johoreans should make Islam their sole guide in their daily lives.

The Tunku Mahkota of Johor, Tunku Bendahara and other members of the Johor Royalty were also present as well as Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

In PERLIS, Maulidur Rasul was celebrated on a moderate scale in several kampungs as there was no official state level celebration.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim this afternoon attended the celebration organised by the residents of Kampung Datuk Ahmad Musa, Simpang Empat, near Kangar.

Speaking at the function, he expressed the hope that the people would be grateful for the good life they had in this country.

He said the government had done everything possible to make their lives comfortable.

In KOTA KINABALU, Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai urged Muslims gathered for the Maulidur Rasul celebrations at the Dewan Saadah, Wisma Muis, to practise tolerance and collaboration to strengthen the unity of the Ummah.

In line with the theme of this year's celebrations, Muslims should value and preserve unity among them, he said.

Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin urged Muslims to strengthen their zeal to remain united and avoid conflicts.

-- BERNAMA

JS AAM