

01 FEB 2001

FT-Celebrations

PUTRAJAYA PROCLAMATION AS FT, DAREDEVIL STUNTS MARK FT DAY BASH

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- Declaration of Putrajaya as Malaysia's third Federal Territory and daredevil stunts from the skyline of KL Tower marked Federal Territory Day celebrations today.

Thousands of city folks from all walks of life took advantage of the mid-week holiday to throng Putrajaya and various public places in the city centre to witness an array of events.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad proclaimed Putrajaya a Federal Territory in a colourful and joyous ceremony at Dataran Perdana and the wave of excitement in the new federal administrative capital was also felt here.

Kuala Lumpur Mayor Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff launched the 27th Kuala Lumpur City Day celebrations by flagging off hundreds of people taking part in the KL Run at the Merdeka Square here at 6.50am.

As city dwellers looked forward for better living standards in the federal capital in the years ahead, many of them displayed health consciousness, family sporting spirit and good neighbourliness when participating in the programmes.

The 421-metre high KL Tower, the fourth tallest telecommunications tower in the world, was the centre of attraction when 52 daredevil stuntmen took part in the parachute jumping.

Known as B.A.S.E. jumpers, 47 men and five women from 10 countries including five from Malaysia performed the feat.

B.A.S.E is the acronym denoting the four types of objects the jumpers leap namely Buildings, Antennas (transmitter tower antennas), Spans (bridges) and Earth formations (usually cliffs).

The first jumper from 300-metre Open Deck of the Tower Head (Level TH05) was 38-year-old American Avery Badenhop followed by six other jumpers.

Kamaruzzaman witnessed the event and received the Malaysian and Kuala Lumpur flags from the jumpers.

Among the foreign daredevil stuntmen performing the feat are American champion Nikolas Hartshorne, Australian Dwain Weston and top female stuntwoman Anne Helliwell from New Zealand.

The event was held in two three-hour sessions throughout the day from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

The event would be listed in the Malaysian Book of Records as the largest participation in a B.A.S.E. jump event in Malaysia.

Malaysian Book of Records official Danny Ooi said the exciting event was the first for 53 jumpers to compete in a single event in Malaysia.

Three years ago, three jumpers performed a similar feat from the tower.

Menara Kuala Lumpur Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Shahidah Ridwan said parachute-jumping such as this would be held annually at the tower.

Meanwhile, Kamaruzzaman said his vision was to transform Kuala Lumpur into a world class city and to provide the best quality of life for the city dwellers.

"We have multi-pronged strategies to improve traffic management, housing for low-income earners, reduce flash floods and to improve overall quality of life in the city.

"We also have to get the city ready for the SEA Games in September," he added.

Elsewhere in the city, there were other events and one of them was the

fishing competition at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, Taman Tasik Perdana and Taman Tasik Permaisuri.

Hundreds of anglers, some accompanied by their families, gathered as early as in the wee hours to get strategic locations at the three lakes while hawkers and petty traders made brisk business.

-- BERNAMA

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