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Celebrating Raya with prayers, open house

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Muslims nationwide celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri by offering prayers in mosques and others hosting open house for relatives and friends.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah attended Aidilfitri prayers at the National Mosque and were accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood and Muslim diplomats.

After the prayers, the King and Dr Mahathir exchanged greetings with the public.

In Putrajaya, around 100,000 people thronged Seri Perdana to meet Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah at their open house.

The heat and long queues did not deter the crowd from the opportunity to shake hands and wish them Selamat Hari Raya.

Cabinet members and their wives, Barisan Nasional leaders, members of Opposition parties, government officials and others were also present to extend their greetings to Dr Mahathir and his wife.

At the Putra World Trade Centre here, nearly 20,000 people called on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datin Seri Endon Mahmood at their open house.

In Johor Baru, about 15,000 people visited Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman at his official residence, where he extended his greetings to all Malaysians and urged everyone to cherish the peace and prosperity enjoyed by the country.

In Kuala Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and his consort Permaisuri Nur Zahirah performed Aidilfitri prayers at the Ladang Mosque and later visited the royal mausoleum.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang read the Aidilfitri sermon and later accompanied the royal couple to the mausoleum.

In Kota Baru, Sultan Tuanku Ismail Petra and Raja Perempuan Tengku Anis joined their subjects in performing Aidilfitri prayers at the Muhammadi Mosque in the town centre, before proceeding to Istana Balai Besar where the public exchanged Hari Raya greetings with them.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat performed Aidilfitri prayers at Pulau Melaka and had his open house at his residence in the same area.

In Kuala Kangsar, Sultan Sultan Azlan Shah and Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Bainun performed Aidilfitri prayers at Ubudiah Mosque.

Joining them were Raja Muda Perak Raja Nazrin, Raja DiHilir Raja Jaafar Raja Muda Musa and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and dignitaries.

The royal couple later held a reception at Istana Iskandariah while Tajol Rosli and his wife Datin Seri Kamariah Mokri held a open house at their official residence at Jalan Raja DiHilir.

In Negri Sembilan, Yang di-Pertuan Besar Tuanku Ja'afar Tuanku Abdul Rahman and his consort Tuanku Najihah Tunku Besar Burhanuddin received guests at Istana Besar Sri Menanti, Kuala Pilah while 5,000 people attended Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad's open house at Jalan Taman Tasek.

In Malacca, foreign tourists expressed amazement at seeing so many people being treated to free food at the open house.

"Guests are not only being treated to good food but are also given money.

"I've never seen anything like it anywhere in the world," Norwegian tourist Lars Holme, 33, said at Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam's open house at Bukit Perringit.

Earlier in the morning, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin led thousands of Muslims in prayers at Masjid Al-Azim and later hosted an open house at Istana Melaka.

In Kangar, more than 3,000 people thronged Istana Arau to greet Perlis Regent Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Selamat Hari Raya.

In Kuantan, 5,000 Muslims joined Sultan Ahmad Shah, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob in performing prayers at the Sultan Ahmad Satu State Mosque.

About 15,000 visitors streamed into Dewan Jubli Perak Sultan Ahmad Shah, near Adnan's official residence, for an open house.

In Kuching, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin joined 3,000 Muslims for Aidilfitri prayers at Masjid Jamek in Petra Jaya.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, Sarawak Tourism Minister Datuk Sri Abang Johari and other State dignitaries were present.

Later, Tun Salahuddin and his consort Toh Puan Norkiah hosted an open house at the Astana in Petra Jaya while the Chief Minister and Puan Sri Laila Taib held open house at Stadium Perpaduan also in Petra Jaya.

In Penang, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas attended Aidilfitri prayers at the State Mosque with 2,000 people.

In Jakarta, Openg Onn of Bernama reports that about 300 Malaysian Muslims led by Malaysian ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Rastam Mohamed Isa and wife Datin Norizan Sulaiman performed prayers at the embassy today.

After that, they enjoyed food and cookies served by the embassy staff as they wished each other Selamat Hari Raya.

In the evening, Malaysians residing in the embassy apartments co-hosted a dinner in the compound for Malaysians and local friends.

For dozens of Malaysian students in Surabaya, the capital of East Java province, Hari Raya was celebrated in a modest way.