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## Nation pays tribute to fallen heroes

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad led the nation in honouring the country's fallen heroes when he laid a wreath at the National Monument in conjunction with Warriors' Day today.

He arrived at 8.30am and inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 103 officers and men of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Mej Abu Samah Mohamed Nor.

The ceremony started with the "Last Post" and the recital of a poem Pahlawan (Warriors) by Mej (Rtd) Mohamed Awang, who also wrote it.

Dr Mahathir led the wreath-laying, followed by Armed Forces Chief Tan Sri Mohamed Zahidi Zainuddin and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai.

Army Chief Jen Tan Sri Mohamed Hashim Hussein, Navy Chief Laksamana Tan Sri Abu Bakar Abdul Jamal, Air Force Chief Jen Datuk Seri Suleiman Mahmud, Malaysian Ex-Servicemen's Association president Datuk Mohamad Abdul Ghani and Ex-Policemen's Association president Senator Datuk Mansor H.M. Jaafar followed suit.

The "Rouse" marked the end of the ceremony.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Cabinet ministers and members of foreign missions.

In Kota Kinabalu, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sabah Tun Sakaran Dandai and Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat joined State Ministers in laying wreaths at the Tropical City Esplanade at Jalan Penampang. A moment of silence was then observed.

In Ipoh, Warriors' Day was marked with a parade at the State administrative complex attended by the Raja Muda of Perak, Raza Nazrin Shah. Others present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Tajol Rosli Ghazali, State Executive Councillors and ex-servicemen.

Sixteen contingents comprising personnel from the police, army, air force, navy and uniformed bodies took part in the parade, led by Mej Faridon Saad of the Royal Malay Regiment. The ceremony concluded with the raising of the Jalur Gemilang.

In Kota Baru, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat launched the Warriors' Day Appeal 2002 at Padang Merdeka.

Present were Eighth Infantry Brigade Commander Brig Jen Datuk Ramli Harun, Kelantan police chief SAC Datuk Mohamed Najib Abdul Aziz and senior State government officials.

The State Warriors' Day Fund committee is aiming to raise RM200,000, said State Secretary Tengku Datuk Shah Buddin Tengku Mohd Maasom, who is committee chairman.

In Port Dickson, State Assembly Speaker Datuk Muhammad Shahlan Shaid represented Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad in laying a wreath at the Royal Malay Regiment Monument at the Army Basic Training Training Centre.

First Brigade Deputy Commander Kol Kamarulzaman Datuk Maulud, commandant of the centre, State police chief Datuk Ahmad Fuaad Mohamed Sidek, State Secretary Datuk Mohamed Ali Abdul Samad, Negri Sembilan Ex-Servicemen's Association president Lt Kol (rtd) Zakaria Mohamed Yusoff and Negri Sembilan Ex-Policemen's Association chairman Shafie Bakri also laid wreaths at the ceremony.