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300,000 at Putrajaya carnival

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WHAT a crowd-puller the Putrajaya Carnival 2003 was going by the response to the two-day event, which was held two weekends ago.

The carnival, managed by TV3 and held at Lebu Sentosa in Precinct 8 of the country's administrative centre, attracted an estimated 300,000 visitors for the two days.

Despite the apparent lack of proper parking space, carnival-goers did not seem to mind leaving their vehicles parked along the roads, and sportingly walked up to a kilometre to the carnival ground with their families and friends while enjoying the breathtaking sights.

Visibly pleased with the warm response from the public were most of the 200 participants, comprising mainly corporate organisations and local retailers.

Operating from two rows of about 100 booths set up along both sides of the road, the traders sold practically everything under the sun, from fruits and clothes to water filters and shower units.

The food and drinks stalls were also seen doing roaring business catering to the thirsty, hungry crowd.

The mobile traders selling umbrellas benefited the most as they took advantage of the sunny weather to sell their products. Not to be outdone were their counterparts selling colourful helium-filled balloons.

Among the popular booths was one manned by TV3 staff which sold souvenirs. The traffic police booth was also a hive of activity as carnival-goers gathered there to check on their outstanding summonses. TMNet's booth was also packed with children and adults playing computer games and surfing the Internet.

Also kept busy throughout the two days were Alam Flora workers tasked with clearing garbage churned out by carnival-goers. Despite garbage bins being provided liberally on the carnival ground, many visitors paid no heed to the need to throw rubbish into proper receptacles.

Traffic police also had their fair share of work, directing traffic and ensuring orderly parking.

The carnival ended in a colourful closing ceremony officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.