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Big turnout at peace drive

Suhana Md Zaini

"WE want peace!" yelled some 2,000 people who came for a gathering organised by the People's Alliance for Peace Malaysia at an open field in Wangsa Maju, Kuala Lumpur last Saturday.

The gathering was to collect signatures for the "Malaysians For Peace One Million Signatures" campaign.

The signatures were handed over to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the Peace Malaysia rally held at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Sunday.

The Wangsa Maju gathering was launched by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, who released several pigeons to symbolise freedom.

"We are lucky to be living in a peaceful country," said Tengku Adnan.

"We are envied by other countries as, despite our multi religious and cultural background, we can still live together in harmony."

Tengku Adnan urged Malaysians to be tolerant of each other, as "tolerance and patience were the way of life of our forefathers as they fought for independence".

Wangsa Maju MP Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique commended the 365 non-governmental organisations which had worked together diligently to collect signatures for the "Malaysians For Peace" campaign.

He also thanked Wangsa Maju residents for attending the gathering.

"I'm proud to say they came in full force, not only residents but also students and corporate bodies.

"Initially, we targeted only about 5,000 signatures, but we managed to get more than 16,000," said a beaming Zulhasnan.