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Colourful affair in the States

PUTRAJAYA, Sun. - The National Day parade here today was made more meaningful with the participation of Malaysians who have made the nation proud during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's stewardship.

Joining the over 23,000 participants who marched down parts of the newly-opened 4.2km-long Boulevard were national heroes, such as marathon swimmer Datuk Abdul Malik Mydin, solo round-the-world sailor Datuk Azhar Mansor and Mount Everest conquerors M. Magendran and N. Mohandas, who rode in chauffeur-driven TD2000 and Bufori cars.

Various agencies, companies and non-governmental organisations also helped to keep the 300,000-strong crowd entertained with costume parade and colourful floats.

Seen expressing their patriotism along with fellow Malaysians were H2O Sports managing director Datuk Yahya Jalil, Tenaga Nasional Berhad vice-president for corporate planning, development and services Datuk Md Sidek Ahmad and Yayasan Salam Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Razali Ismail, who led their organisations in the procession.

Disabled former television compere Ras Adiba Radzi was also present.

The Education Ministry's 1,000-strong contingent, sporting robes and mortar boards, was led by its secretary-general Datuk Ambrin Buang and Education director-general Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat.

Their colourful float, which depicted the leaps and bounds by which the sector had progressed since 1957, signified the importance placed on education by the Government.

The Agriculture Ministry's 97-member contingent, led by its secretary-general Datuk Abi Musa Asaari Mohd Noor, marched along with a "fruit-filled" float featuring a "delicious" assortment of giant watermelons, durians and mangoes.

Other corporations which took part in the procession in their creatively decorated floats were Perbadanan Putrajaya and I-Berhad, whose participants were clad in bright orange.