

THE STAR

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# Messages from five PMs to the people

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The country's five prime ministers were "present" at Stadium Merdeka last night to commemorate the nation's 50th year of independence.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, Tun Hussein Onn, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were all projected as holographic presentations and "spoke" to the people - excerpts of their significant speeches were played for the crowd.

Later, there were performances by different groups such as the army, primary and secondary students and bands to commemorate each of the eras under the five premiers.

The show kicked off with a performance by the 50-man Wira Merah Tattoo from the Malaysian army, which wowed the audience with their daring balancing act on motorcycles that ended with 20 personnel on three bikes - a tribute show to Tunku Abdul Rahman as the father of independence.

Next up were some 1,000 primary school pupils from around the capital, dressed in farmer garb, performing the farmers' dance to commemorate agricultural development dur-

ing Tun Abdul Razak's time.

For Tun Hussein Onn's era, there was a unity dance by 2,000 secondary school students from the Klang Valley. This was to illustrate Hussein's push for stronger racial unity through the use of Bahasa Malaysia.

As Tun Dr Mahathir is hailed as the father of modernisation, the tribute to him was a parade of 57 national vehicles comprising 19 units from Proton, including a newly unveiled model called the Satria Gemilang, eight from Perodua and 30 Modenas motorcycles.

A 770-man brass band comprising bands from 13 schools in the Klang Valley showcased their musical talent during the vehicle parade.

To reflect the importance of human capital emphasised by the current administration of the father of human development Abdullah, the 1,500-strong Soka Gakkai Malaysia took to the stage.

The group enthralled spectators with callisthenic movements as well as a variety of human formations.

The show ended with patriotic songs sung by all the 18,000 participants together with the crowd.