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Najib launches Kuala Lumpur arts festival

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday took time off to appreciate local arts performances, as well as launch the Kuala Lumpur International Arts Festival (DiverseCity 2016).

Najib arrived at 3pm and spent a few minutes visiting a photography exhibition, which was organised in

conjunction with National Day.

The exhibition showcased *dirgahayu* (longevity) and presented the works of photographers Rahman Roslan, Ahmad Yusni and Hasnoor Hussain.

The five-week festival, which began yesterday, aims to highlight the cultural heritage of Malaysia and the

Southeast Asian region via performing and visual arts, such as dance, literature and music.

Festival director Datin Sunita Rajakumar said this year's festival featured more than 50 arts and cultural events held in 80 locations throughout Kuala Lumpur.

"Our incredible sportsmen and

sportswomen have not only achieved excellence in their field, but also provided the people with moments of unity.

"We hope our artists who have achieved excellence and recognition overseas will bring this wonderful nation together."

Visitors at the launch were enter-

tained by Ng Chor Guan, who played the theremin, an early electronic musical instrument controlled without physical contact by the player.

There was also a *syair* (traditional Malay poetry) recital by performing artist Roslan Madun and a street dance by the Alam-ak group.