

FIFTH TIME

100,000 FLOOD PUTRAJAYA FOR NATIONAL DAY

Royal couple, PM and wife witness celebration involving 17,262 participants

AMALINA KAMAL
AND IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

MORE than 100,000 people flooded Dataran Putrajaya to witness a spectacular National Day celebration. Themed "Malaysia Madani: Tekad Perpaduan, Penuhi Harapan" (Determination in Unity, Fulfilling Hope), the celebration featured 17,262 participants, 67 contingents, 36 marching bands, as well as 534 land and air assets.

This is the fifth time Putrajaya has hosted the celebration, after being the host in 2003, 2005, 2018 and 2019.

The event began with the arrival of the leaders, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, followed by the arrival of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah.

The raising of the Jalur Gemilang was accompanied by a rendition of *Negaraku* by the Royal Malay Regiment Central Band.

This was followed by a fly-past by five helicopters flying the Jalur Gemilang, and a 14-gun salute to signify Malaysia's 13 states and the federal territories.

A performance by the Army Red Warrior Acrobatic Team saw the involvement of 42 participants and a special appearance by 66 Royal Enfield motorcycles.

The air force showcased its six Sukhoi SU-30MKM fighters, three Boeing F/A-18D Hornets and four BAE Systems Hawk jets, which did a fly-past.

The police VAT69 team thrilled the crowd with a skydiving demonstration, followed by a 400-drum performance, 36 marching bands and a National Day performance titled "Determination to Fulfil Hope" by 1,500 participants.

This was followed by a parade, which saw 17,262 participants involving 67 contingents.

This contingents were divided into nine components: nationhood, unity of Malaysia Madani, economy, banking, telecommunications, creative industry and broadcasting, sports and national security.

This marked the final year that Al-Sultan Abdullah and Tunku Azizah would be attending the



Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah attending the National Day parade in Putrajaya yesterday. They are accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail. PIX BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

event in their capacity as king and queen.

The royal couple set aside protocol, spending about an hour to chat, shake hands and take selfies with parade participants and visitors.

They were seen holding hands and singing the *Jalur Gemilang* song as they walked around the square.

Al-Sultan Abdullah was seen carrying a little boy while Tunku Azizah showed mini heart gestures and blew kisses as she waved to the crowd.

Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil said more than 100,000 people had attended the celebration, the first organised by the unity government.

Fahmi, who is chairman of the National Day and Malaysia Day Celebration Main Committee, expressed satisfaction with the organisation of the celebration, especially the smooth dance presentations, parade and aerial display.

The celebrations continued na-

tionwide.

In **Melaka**, more than 10,000 participants from 179 contingents, including 773 security forces and assets, government agencies and the private sector, participated in the event at the Proclamation of Independence Memorial in Banda Hilir.

In **Kedah**, more than 20,000 spectators gathered at Dataran Medan Bandar in Alor Star to watch the state-level parade.

However, the celebration, scheduled to start at 9am, was delayed due to a downpour.

In **Pahang**, Regent of Pahang Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah graced the state-level celebrations at the Kuantan Municipal Council 4 compound.

In **Penang**, more than 10,000 people gathered at the Batu Kawan Stadium to witness the state-level parade, which comprised 92 contingents from departments, agencies and the private sector.

In **Perak**, Sultan Nazrin Shah,

Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim, their children Raja Azlan Muzaffar Shah and Raja Nazira Safya, watched 3,855 people from 91 contingents march at the state-level parade at Indera Mulia Stadium, with 25,000 spectators in attendance.

In **Sabah**, a mounted guard of honour — by three officers and 110 members of the Sandakan-based 22nd Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment, while eight navy personnel raised the Jalur Gemilang — marked the start of the state level-parade, with 1,000 people from 140 contingents marching through Jalan Tun Fuad Stephens, Kota Kinabalu. **Additional reporting by Fuad Nizam**

Page 1 pic: Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah, as well as other leaders at the National Day parade in Putrajaya yesterday.