

Good ties, tolerance vital for unity

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WARRIORS DAY: Make sacrifices for the country to ensure peace and harmony, says deputy king

KUALA LUMPUR: MALAYSIANS, regardless of race, religion or culture, must have a sense of patriotism and be willing to make sacrifices for the country to ensure continued peace and harmony.

Good relations and tolerance were vital for a united, multicultural Malaysia, said Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Muhammad V in his speech at the Warriors Day celebration at Dataran Merdeka here yesterday.

Warriors Day is celebrated every July 31 in remembrance of the day when the Emergency was declared over in 1960.

It was celebrated for the first time on Aug 4, 1968.

Men and women of the armed forces and police, as well as a small contingent of retired security forces personnel, congregated at the historical landmark to celebrate the country's heroes.

"Starting with the struggles against the Japanese army during World War 2, the communist insurgency during the Emergency and the Confrontation, these are some of the important moments recorded in the country's history," Sultan Muhammad V said.

"Many died, were injured or sustained permanent disabilities in the course of their service, but nevertheless, their sacrifices must never be forgotten."

Sultan Muhammad V, who is also the ruler of Kelantan, urged the people not to forget the widows and children of the fallen heroes, who needed assistance and support. He called and urged all Malaysians to intensify their patriotic fervour for the love of the country.

A pantomime by the Royal Malay Regiment, which depicted the battle of famous Malaysian hero and soldier Datuk Kanang Langkau at Ulu Kinta, Perak, on Feb 19, 1980, during the height of the communist insurgency, was also featured.

Present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Armed Forces chief Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar.

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