

30,000 attend 2018 Malaysia Day celebration

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KOTA KINABALU, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- The 2018 Malaysia Day celebration at Padang Merdeka near here tonight was manifestation of patriotism by about 30,000 people of various races to mark the historic day.

The occasion to highlight the formation of Malaysia 55 years ago was significant as it was at this location the historic declaration of Malaysia on Sept 16 in 1963 took place apart from being the first time it was observed under a new federal and state government.

Visitors who flocked Padang Merdeka as early as 5pm in a show of true patriotism were not disappointed as they were entertained with various performances while waiting for the arrival of honoured guests.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as well as Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and his wife, Datin Seri Shuryani Shuaib arrived at the celebration location at about 8pm.

The historic event which was officiated by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was also attended by Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas who represented the Chief Minister of Sarawak Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg.

Also present were Communication and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo as well as federal and state cabinet ministers.

The event began at 8.11pm upon the arrival of Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Juhar Mahiruddin and his wife Toh Puan Norlidah RM Jasni, with the singing of

Negaraku followed by the Sabah state anthem, Sabah Tanahairku as well as a welcoming presentation based on the diversity of Malaysia put up by more than 1,200 performers

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