

Unity at FT Day celebration

WONDERFUL: Visitors of all ages throng Merdeka Square for the FT Day celebration

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CITY folk came together over the weekend to celebrate the Federal Territories (FT) Day with lots of activities in a carnival-like atmosphere.

The celebration, with the theme *Rakyat Bersatu, Wilayah Persekutuan Maju*, at Dataran Merdeka was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.



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Mohd Radzali Mat Ladin,
Retired policeman

Present were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and KL mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail.

The colourful celebration started with a parade that comprised about 8,000 participants from government departments, non-governmental organisations, private sectors, agencies to institutions of learning.

It also included a parade of antique cars, super motor stunts, City Hall's cavalry contingent and a demonstration by

paragliders.

SK Wangsa Jaya pupil, Faiziana Abd Razak, 9, was excited to take part in the *Generasi Hebat* series of performances comprising dances, sports and flag-waving.

"I am happy to take part. For me, unity means being able to dance and to do fun activities with my friends," said Faiziana.

One of the spectators, R. Kharisma, 35, from Taman Keramat said his two children had waited eagerly for the procession.

"I always bring them here during FT day or National Day celebrations because they love to see members of the uniformed bodies marching and they are even more excited if there are air shows," he said.

Comma Motorsports executive director Sayed Alifzal Sayed Ahmad said that the most challenging part was to integrate moves from go-kart, mini bikes and super motor in the performance.

"We were able to do it with solid teamwork and formation practice. Me-

chanics, as well as team managers, were on hand to make sure everything proceeded smoothly," he said.

A retired policeman, Mohd Radzali Mat Ladin, 64, from Taman Dutuk Senu, Sentul, was moved by the marching troops because it required team effort and discipline.

Radzali said when he was younger, he had participated in a procession during Warrior's Day. The roaring music from the brass band still thumped his heart until today.

"I wish for Kuala Lumpur to have a more efficient transport network, to reduce flash floods by improving the drainage system, to better manage traffic conditions and to be safer," he said.

He said with robust development came issues such as drug smuggling and human trafficking.

Cosplay fun member, Abdul Muhaimin Abd Fatah, 26, was overwhelmed when he was given the chance to participate in the procession for the first time.

Huge turnout

About 8,000 participants from 92 contingents in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory of Labuan and Federal Territory of Putrajaya took part in the procession on Saturday.

"Costume play is popular among anime lovers and gamers, but is seldom introduced to the masses. It has its own fan base regardless of race and this is a chance to bring us together," he said.

A toy trader, Rosli Yusof, 44, from Damansara charmed the visitors with his Malaysian flag-wrapped and elevated metal legs.

"I wanted to be a part of the memorable day with everybody else. I made the clothes myself." He said this was the first time he was taking part in the event as he was too busy to do so in previous years.

KL-Selangor Luen Seng Physical Culture Association performed a lion dance and dragon dance, while SRJK (C) Nam Keong performed 24-Season Drum routines towards noon.

A bagpiper, Colin Walker, 46, from Scotland came to judge the pipe-band competition at 1 pm.

The pipe-band teams, which consist of multicultural participants, were from St John's Institution, St John's Alumni and Klang High School.

Walker said it was difficult to play the bagpipes while moving.

Organiser Abdullah Mohd Omar said the objective of the competition was to promote the traditional musical instrument, especially among youngsters.

Pensioner Moez Narawi, 58, said, the celebration was very colourful.

"I like the procession because I can see the participants in colourful cos-



A Dragon dance enthralled visitors.

tumes and the vintage and modern cars." Moez, from Kuching, was on holiday with his wife.

Traders and fund-raisers also set up booths at the celebration.

Meanwhile, Raja Nong Chik said this year's theme was in line with the Malaysia concept.

"It is hoped that city folk would come together with the government to develop a sustainable metropolis where people from all walks of life can live together happily," he said.

He said that this year's celebration was more lively as it had more activities such as cultural performances, exhibition and sports.

"This celebration will also be held in Putrajaya and Labuan. It will give all the opportunity to participate in the activities and programmes," said Nong Chik.

He added that in conjunction with the FT day, the Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Ministry, City Hall, Putrajaya Corporation, Labuan Corporation, Federal Territories Director of Land and Mines Office as well as Federal Territories Sports Council will provide "gifts" to city folk.

The gifts will range from discounts on compound fines, no fees or rent for sports equipment and hall to discounts for use of public spaces.

A month of celebration

The public can still take part in the organised events. Putrajaya and Labuan in conjunction with the 8th Federal Territory Day.

Month celebrations are held to commemorate the formation of Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory

Starting tomorrow, the three-day Kuala Lumpur International Short Film Festival 2012 will showcase international short films at City Hall auditorium.

Bird lovers can come to Taman Buring here on Wednesday for the 1 Malaysia Bird Hunt.

Other highlights are the Acara panda mini-race 2012 on Feb 25 which aim to expose tourist attractions to participants.

On Feb 11, there will be water fiesta as well as Glaucoma Marathon Day in Putrajaya.

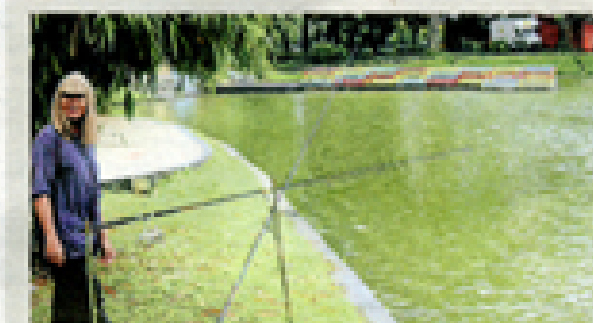
On following weekend, there will be an extreme sports competition at Taman Cabaran PS, and a kayak workshop at LRC Taman Wetland.



Karnival WOW! Putrajaya 2012 from Feb 23 to 26 at Presint 2 will have over 100 exhibition booths and stalls.

A two-day Le tour langkawi 2012 will also take place on Feb 24 at Persiaran Perdana and Dataran Putrajaya.

Next weekend in Labuan, there will be competitions on fishing, futsal, and lawn-bowling. Other activities are golfing, tug-of-war and 'Umaung race'.



On Feb 26, Kuala Lumpur will close the celebration at the site of Karnival WOW! Putrajaya. On the same day, there will be a fishing competition at Sisiran tauk Presint 1.

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Go-kart driver and a super motor rider perform stunts for visitors.

Visitors enjoying themselves at the FT Day celebration held at Dataran Merdeka.



Rosli Yusof, 44, charms visitors with his flag-wrap.



Vintage cars on parade. Pics by Alruddin Saad, Rodan Wahid and Sarah Rahim