



ASYRAF RASID/
THE SUN

Participants, some in ethnic costumes, wave flags while marching at the celebration.

National Day showcase

which was screened on a large LED screen, while the entire event was also telecast live.

Before the march past, Noradzmi Baba from the Kuala Lumpur FT Education Department performed the pledge of allegiance, accompanied by five differently-abled Gen Y icons who had achieved success in their respective fields.

They were Muhammad Zahriff Affandi (recipient of the National Youth Icon Award); Fara Fauzana (radio and television personality); Diana Bong Siong Lin (national wushu exponent); Mohd Rizuan Kauhini (mountain guide); and Louis Marie Neubert Ambrose (teacher). The emcees were Saiful Khairi Ahmad, Rudiyan Shah and Atikah Mahali.

According to organisers, they decided to include a team of mountain guides this time around to recognise the key roles they played during rescue missions on Mount Kinabalu following the earthquake that struck on June 5.

A crowd puller were the assets showcased by the police, which included their Kawasaki GTR 1400 and Honda ST 1300 motorcycles used by the traffic division and the latest Army, Air Force and Navy assets, including armoured personnel carriers and howitzers.



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The crowd was also treated to the regular fly by formations by the RMAF which this time featured nine Pilatus PC 7 aircraft used for training, the A 400M transport plane and 11 Sukhoi SU 30 MKM fighter jets. Keeping with the unity message, the theme song for this year's National Day had lyrics in Iban Kadazan as follows: Mi i so ginavo (Kadazan), Kitai Dekak Mujur (Iban), mi i so ginavo (Kadazan), Ngetan Ke Menua (Iban), mi i so ginavo (Kadazan) Nyuluk Cita Mulia (Iban). About 1,000 participants ended the celebration with a special "Rakyat Bersepadu" performance to reflect the multi-culturalism in the country.



ZULFADHU ZAKI/THE SUN

Nurul Imaniah (right) and Wan Nor Azyyati holding a pose to capture the historic moment.



Nine-month-old Airis Urissy Amanda Zanizam wearing a Jalur Gemilang-inspired costume riding in a mini car to join in the celebration.

Smooth sailing despite uncertainty

KUALA LUMPUR: Despite the Bersih 4.0 rally taking place just hours before, the National Day celebration in Dataran Merdeka went on without any hiccups.

Unfazed by last night's massive "yellow gathering", thousands of Malaysians still thronged the historic square to witness the parade in the spirit of Malaysia.

Prior to the parade, there were fears that rally-goers from last night's gathering would cause a scene at the country's annual

celebration, but the situation, right from the start, has been calm.

The crowd, at the 34-hour Bersih 4.0 rally, dubbed "the mother of all rallies", only fully dispersed at about 1.00am, barely seven hours before the National Day celebration kicked off.

One of the spectators, Nur Diana Aziella, 23, a public university student in Johor, was of the opinion that the rally was held in good faith for the betterment of the country.



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Malaysian army tanks at the procession.