

**Warriors' Day celebration returns to Dataran Pahlawan after three years [NSTTV]**

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PUTRAJAYA: The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah attended the Warriors' Day celebration, held at Dataran Pahlawan, here today after a three-year hiatus.

The King and Queen were also accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and his wife, Datin Seri Muhaini Zainal Abidin at the event.

Also present were Senior Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin, Armed Forces chief Gen Tan Sri Affendi Buang and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani.

A 21-gun salute was fired by the 41st Battery, Royal Artillery Regiment to welcome the King and Queen.

The King then received the royal salute and inspected the guard-of-honour led by Major Nurul Fauzan Md Sabri.

A total 54 officers and 830 personnel of various ranks from the Armed Forces, police, Armed Forces Veteran Association and Police Veteran Association participated in the parade.

The ceremony began with the sounding of the 'Last Post' while the Jalur Gemilang was lowered.

A poem 'Pahlawanku' (My Warrior) by Air Corporal Mohamad Ramdan Akmal Md Jamal from the Armed Forces and Sergeant Roseshini Kasim from the police was recited before a pantomime entitled 'Pertempuran Pasar Bakara' on the incident which happened in Bakara Market, Mogadishu, Somalia in Oct 3 and 4, 1993.

The 19th Battalion of The Royal Malay Regiment (19 RAMD) Mekanise was involved in the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission in Mogadishu, Somalia under the MALBATT 1 UNOSOM II Contingent (United Nations Operation in Somalia).

The United Nations headquarters in Somalia requested the assistance of the Malaysian military and 19 RAMD Mekanise was deployed to the battle area to rescue the elite members of the United States Rangers and the Black Hawk helicopter crew who were trapped in the market after being attacked by rebel guerrillas led by Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

A Condor armored personnel carrier driven by Corporal Mat Aznan Awang was ambushed by rebel guerrillas through RPG rocket fire that penetrated the windshield of the armored vehicle causing his death.

The late Corp Mat Aznan was honored with Darjah Keberanian Tertinggi Persekutuan, Seri Pahlawan Gagah Perkasa for his bravery in the mission.

Later, the tune 'Rouse' was played while the Jalur Gemilang was hoisted.

Armed Forces director-general of the Religious Corps Major-General Mohd Rashidi Bujai then recited the doa before the celebration ended.

The last Warriors' Day celebration held was back in 2018.

In 2019, the celebration could not be held due to the haze which had blanketed the country.

The celebrations could not be held in the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.