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Royal presence at university's Hari Raya open house

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KUANTAN: Some 4,000 students and staff members of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) attended the university's Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house which was graced by Sultan of Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah and Sultanah of Pahang Sultanah Kalsom.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Higher Education deputy minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, state exco member Datuk Mohd Sharkar Shamsuddin.

UMP vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said this year's celebration was different as staff members took the effort to come up with their own dishes.

"A total of 18 food stalls were set up by the university's departments and faculties.



Happy birthday: Sultan of Pahang (in yellow baju Melayu) cutting the pulut kuning in conjunction with his 80th birthday at the open house. Looking on are Adnan (second left), Saifuddin (in peach baju Melayu) and Daing Nasir (in orange attire).

"There were a variety of dishes and food prepared such as *ketupat*, *lemang*, *rendang*, *nasi minyak*, *laksa*, *soto*, *cendol* and the popular *air batu campur* (ABC)," he said at the function here recently.

He said to make the event more interesting, a prize was given to the most creatively decorated stall that went to the Civil Engineering and Natural Resource faculty whose theme was on Pahang's sultanate and heritage.

He also said UMP's staff worked hard to make the event a success and were excited to celebrate the day with the royal couple.

Guests were also entertained to performances by students and artists from the the cultural and arts department.

A day earlier, UMP hosted a seminar on the state's heritage with several speakers invited to speak and discuss about the topic.

One of them was Abdul Aziz who spoke on the importance of inculcating patriotism among Malaysians at a young age.

"The younger generation needs to be reminded and made to understand about the country's history so they will learn to appreciate the peace, harmony and development enjoyed now," he said.

Abdul Aziz said many Malaysians were now living in a comfort zone and had no inkling about the hardship faced by the country's forefathers in obtaining independence and tackling racial and economic issues that could be very damaging unless firm measures were taken.

Another speaker, renowned historian Prof Datuk Dr Ramlah Adam said conflicts that existed in the country now were more politically motivated and if left unchecked, could pose a danger to the country.