



# TRIBUTE TO THE NATION'S EDUCATORS

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**T**EACHER'S Day this year has been celebrated joyously nationwide as Malaysians came together to pay tribute to the nation's dedicated educators.

The celebration at a national level, themed "Guru Pembina Negara Bangsa" was launched by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi where he emphasised the

need to better appreciate and nurture the role of teachers in society.

"Teachers deserve more than just acknowledgements in the form of awards given to them for their outstanding services every year with a better employment scheme that truly appreciates their evolving role," he said during the ceremony at Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid in his Teacher's Day speech said the contributions and sacrifices made by teachers must always

be acknowledged by the community.

He said teachers had to be reminded of their students' potential to help them develop them in various fields.

Mahdzir said the ministry had taken steps to ensure this by providing different education platforms.

Various activities in conjunction with Teacher's Day were held around the country including Festival Hari Guru 2016 where educational interactive exhibitions and performances were held along with the Tatap Bah Sayang Cikgu run, a

symbolic event to honour teachers.

Education Ministry director-general Datuk Seri Dr Khair Mohamad Yusof led the Teacher's Day Oath during the celebration, followed by a multitude of teachers who were present.

As in past Teacher's Day celebrations, the Tokoh Guru Kebangsaan award was presented, this year to Tokoh Guru Johor Azizul Rahman Abdul Rahman.

Azizul, 64, from Parit Sulong, Johor, served as an educator for 33 years, retiring as a teacher at SMK Dato' Sulaiman in 2010.

The Tokoh Kepimpinan Pendidikan award on the other hand, was awarded to former Education director-general Datuk Dr Ahmad Sipon, who served in the field for more than 30 years.

Teacher's Day was also celebrated merrily at the school-level, with many spicing up the occasion with costume themes and presenting special awards.

Photos of schools that celebrated the day with costume themes went viral over social media, depicting their teachers in themes such as anak

kampung (villagers), balik sekolah (back to school) and Kesultanan Melayu Lama (Malay sultanate).

A school in Section 9, Selangor, found a creative way to give cards to their teachers, by "locking" their wishes with padlocks, inspired by the love lock bridges in France, Germany and South Korea.

Sekolah Pendidikan Khas Seremban celebrated the special day by holding sketches performed by special needs students.

Principal Siti Zahrah Ishak said celebrating with disabled children made the day even more special every year.

The fun and games held on Teacher's Day reminded everyone of the everlasting role and deserving appreciation to teachers.

As Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said, "the student's success is also their success and many have achieved great things due to the sweat and hard work shown by dedicated teachers".

