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## The Show Goes On Despite Rain, Wild Winds In Wintry Melbourne

MELBOURNE, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- About 350 people, mostly students, braved the harsh weather to watch cultural troupes perform at Fiesta Malaysia at SouthBank along the Yarra River here Sunday.

It was the coldest September day in Melbourne in about 40 years, but there was no stopping the fiesta which showcased Malaysia's rich cultural heritage.

Scheduled to start at 10.30am, rain and gale-force winds had spectators scurrying for shelter and stallholders dismantling their kiosks and holding on to portable tables and chairs which were flying all over the place.

Malaysia's Deputy High Commissioner in Canberra Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin got a blast of the chill when he arrived to open the fiesta -- a festival of cultural dances, songs, band music and good food.

Thankfully, speeches were brief but Melbourne city councillor Ken Ong, representing the Lord Mayor of the city, promised to help Malaysian students to get wider exposure for their fiesta next year.

"Come and see me and I will do what I can," said Malaysian-born Ong.

Despite the wild weather and the temperature hovering around 9 degrees F, the organising committee headed by Aida Zabidi and Izhar Moslim decided that the show should go on so as not to disappoint the brave hearts who had turned out to enjoy and have a good time with friends.

One felt pity for the young performers who danced bare-shouldered and bare-footed on the rain-soaked open-air stage. There were Malay, Indian, Chinese, Sarawak and Sabah dances.

A similar event was held at Sydney's Darling Harbour, attended by Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia Datuk Salman Ahmad and hundreds of students.

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