

Day of Peace to be marked annually

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will observe a Day of Peace on Sept 21, the same day as the United Nations' Day of International Peace.

This was declared by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in his speech at the Walk for Peace 2008 organised by the Malaysian Armed Forces Veteran Council here yesterday.

In the speech, which was read by Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop, Najib said Malaysia would observe the Day of Peace annually in the name of security, welfare and peace for all mankind.

"The UN secretary-general has repeatedly called for an end to all violence, and a cessa-

tion to hostilities; but his message has fallen on deaf ears.

"Wars, violence, illegal intrusions still go on unabated. Out of exasperation, he initiated the resolution declaring that at least one day, be observed internationally as a Day of Peace," he added.

Najib also said Malaysia was one of the countries that upheld the UN Charter and subscribed to achieving global peace and security.

For 35 years, the country had submitted to UN calls to send troops for peacekeeping operations to countries enveloped in human conflicts, he added.

"We began with despatching troops to Congo, followed by Namibia, Cambodia, Somalia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Western Sahara and Timor Leste.



Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop inspecting the Malaysian Armed Forces Veteran Council contingent taking part in the Walk for Peace 2008 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"At present, a Malaysian contingent is serving in Lebanon at the request of the UN," he said.

At noon yesterday, more than 3,000 participants of the Walk for Peace 2008 joined the world to observe a minute's silence and offered their prayers that peace could truly be achieved.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's speech was also

read out to the gathered crowd.

Ban said to mobilise people around the world, the UN had launched a text messaging campaign.

His message read: "On Sept 21, the International Day of Peace, I call on world leaders and people around the world to join forces against conflict, poverty and hunger, and for human rights for all."



Some of those who took part in the Walk for Peace event held at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.