

# Lumut declared Navy Town

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Naming coincides with Sultan Azlan Shah's 25th anniversary as Perak ruler

**LUMUT:** Mention the name of this town and the images that come to mind are those of frigates, patrol vessels and boats.

For more than three decades now, Lumut has played host to the largest Malaysian naval base in the country — in fact, the town has become synonymous with the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN).

If not for the naval base, Lumut would have remained a sleepy hollow — a far cry from the vibrant town it is today.

And, recognising the contributions of the RMN towards the progress and modernisation of this town from a laid-back fishing enclave, Lumut finally has been officially declared as Navy Town.

The declaration was made by Perak ruler Sultan Azlan Shah yesterday in conjunction with the RMN's Diamond Jubilee celebrations which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the ruler's reign.

With the royal declaration, Lumut joins the prestigious list of navy towns around the world, similar to Sweden's Karlskrona, South Africa's Simon's Town, the United Kingdom's Portsmouth, Australia's Sydney, Germany's Kiel and the United States' Norfolk and New Port.

In his speech, RMN chief Admiral Datuk Seri Abdul Aziz Jaafar said Lumut fitted the three criteria incumbent of a navy town.

"The first is that Lumut is known among Malaysians as the 'The Home of Royal



Sultan Azlan Shah (fourth from left) and Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Bainun (fifth from left) viewing the iron anchor unveiled to mark the declaration of Lumut as the Navy Town. With them are (from left) Raja Puan Besar Tuanku Zara Salim, Raja Muda Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, Raja Nor Mahani Raja Shahar Shah and RMN chief Admiral Datuk Seri Abdul Aziz Jaafar. — NST picture by Ikhwan Munir

Malaysian Navy'. The second is that the town has become a stop-over for foreign navy ships, enhancing Lumut's reputation as a centre of military tourism.

"The third criterion is that the naval and maritime activities have contributed immensely to the town's development and increased the socioeconomic status of the local

people," he said.

Aziz said at least 43 per cent of the 55,800 people living in Lumut were made up of RMN personnel, jesting that the figure did not include navy retirees. He said RMN would continue to contribute to the development of Lumut as well as the neighbouring towns of Manjung and Sitiawan.

Sultan Azlan Shah, who was

joined by the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah as the RMN's captain-in-chief, later unveiled an iron anchor to mark the declaration of Lumut as a Navy Town.

Also present were Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Bainun, Raja Muda Raja Dr Nazrin Shah and wife Raja Puan Besar Tuanku Zara Salim, Raja Di Hilir Raja Jaafar Raja Muda

Musa and wife Raja Nor Mahani Raja Shahar Shah, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir and past RMN chiefs.

In conjunction with the declaration, a maritime exhibition was organised jointly by MISC, Akademi Laut Malaysia Marine police and fisheries department as well as parades and other activities.