



**Muslims performing 'Istisqa' prayers in the compound of the Arau Palace in Kangar, led by Perlis Mufti Department officer Mohamad Abdul Kadir Sahak. Pic by Eizairi Shamsudin**

## Perlis congregation seeks divine help for rain

**ARAU:** Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail yesterday joined a congregation of 800 Muslims to perform *Istisqa* prayers in the compound of the Arau Palace.

The event, involving people from all walks of life, including police, army, civil servants and students, was led by Perlis Mufti Department officer Mohamad Abdul Kadir Sahak.

Perlis Mufti Datuk Dr Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin said the prayers were performed to seek help from Allah to invoke rain, following the prolonged hot spell sweeping across Perlis since early this year.

Asri, fondly known as Maza, said

the turnout was encouraging, despite being conducted during working hours.

He said the participation of Tuanku Syed Faizuddin showed the commitment of the state's royalty in seeking divine intervention for rainfall in the state.

"*Istisqa* prayers, as well as supplications which are usually read during Friday prayers, were among the practices of Prophet Muhammad during drought.

"We are putting our faith in Allah to help us in this situation (El Nino phenomenon).

"During Friday prayers, we recite *Istisqa* supplications and, *Alhamdulillah*, it has rained for the past

few day in Perlis. However, it is not enough to improve the water reserves at the Timah Tasoh Dam," he said after the prayers here.

State Irrigation and Drainage Department director Ir Abdul Najib Abdullah said although cloud seeding operations carried out since April 12 had resulted in rain at several locations, such as Kangar, Arau and Padang Besar, the amount of rainfall, however, was inadequate to boost the water supply in the sole reservoir in the state.

He said the water level at the dam continued to drop, with yesterday's reading recorded at 26.10m, which was a 0.02m decrease compared with the previous day.