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BN all set for Silver Jubilee do

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - All preparations for the Barisan Nasional Silver Jubilee celebration at the Bukit Jalil Stadium on Sunday are ready, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would deliver a speech at the function which will begin at 7.30pm.

Abdullah, who is also chairman of the central organising committee, said various events would be staged including cultural performances, singing of patriotic songs by local singers and poetry recitals on the struggles of BN.

"It is an occasion during which we can recall the BN achievements over the past 25 years and we hope to create awareness among BN members on the cause that we will continue to champion," Bernama quoted him as saying after chairing the meeting on the BN Silver Jubilee celebration at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

The meeting was also attended by leaders of the other BN component parties.

Abdullah said the gathering at the Bukit Jalil Stadium would also be attended by members of the BN component parties from Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Negri Sembilan, south Perak and west Pahang.

He said the States would also have similar programmes simultaneously at their respective capitals.

He added that the celebration was also open to members of the public and would be telecast live on television.

The celebration at Bukit Jalil would be beamed live to all the venues at the State level, he said.

The gathering at Bukit Jalil will be the largest assembly by a political party in the history of the nation after that where the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Al Haj declared the country's independence at the Merdeka Stadium on Aug 31, 1957.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in Shah Alam reports that the Selangor BN will send close to 70,000 people to take part in the 25th anniversary celebration themed "Teguh, Padu ke arah Alaf Baru" (Strongly United towards the New Millennium).

"Selangor will have the highest representation at the anniversary celebration," Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar told reporters after handing appointment letters to 17 BN division chairmen at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah building here today.

Abu Hassan said those given the appointment letters would serve their term from Aug 1 this year to July 30, 2000.

"Their duty as division chairmen is to prepare its leaders and members for the mass gathering at the National Stadium on Sunday and also prepare its machinery for the forthcoming general election," he added.

He said the Selangor BN would give its full backing and support to its national chairman and Prime Minister Dr Mahathir.

Abu Hassan, who also chaired the State weekly executive council meeting today, said that the Exco had also approved the shifting of Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Chee Wen from Ladang Sungai Tinggi in Kuala Selangor to USJ in Subang Jaya.

He said the reason behind the move was that there were no Chinese pupils studying in the school.

He added that the Education Ministry, with the approval of the Selangor

Government, had agreed to shift the school to USJ where the new school would be built on a 1.6ha site to accommodate some 1,000 pupils.

The present school in Ladang Sungai Tinggi will be maintained as a Sekolah Kebangsaan till an appropriate site is identified. On a report in The Sun on Selangor having a record number of new faces for the coming general election, Abu Hassan said it was too early for him to comment as he had yet to submit the list to Dr Mahathir.

"I will submit the list when told to do so. All I can say is that there will be some changes," he added.

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