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Mahathir-Barisan

BN TO CELEBRATE SILVER JUBILEE ON OCT 24

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) will hold its silver jubilee celebrations on Oct 24, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the celebrations at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here would begin at 8pm and the speeches made would be relayed to all the states where simultaneous celebrations would take place.

The states, however, would have their own programmes, he told a press conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council monthly meeting. Dr Mahathir is Umno president and BN chairman.

Asked on the timing of the celebrations especially with regard to the coming general election, he merely said that the BN had to celebrate the event some time and it need not be on the exact date of the coalition's formation.

Dr Mahathir said the BN had begun holding election dry runs and everyone in the coalition was ready for the polls.

The BN, registered on June 1, 1974, currently has 14 component parties -- Umno, MCA, MIC, Gerakan and PPP (all based in the peninsula); LDP, Akar, PDS, SAPP and PBRS (Sabah); and PBB, SUPP, PBDS and SNAP (Sarawak).

Dr Mahathir evaded questions on whether the general election would be called for soon.

The prime minister also denied that the present actions and programmes of the BN and its component parties indicated that the election would be called for anytime now.

He said his second series of visits to address the people in all parts of the country could be stopped at the early stage or midway.

On the other hand, it might be fully completed and there could also be a third and fourth round.

On opposition parties' prediction that Parliament would be dissolved in 60 days, Dr Mahathir said cynically that they should be the ones making the dissolution.

-- BERNAMA

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