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Abdullah-BN

BN TO STAGE GRAND SILVER JUBILEE BASH

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- The governing Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition will stage a mammoth rally to celebrate its 25th anniversary, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

The date for the grand event had not been fixed as preparations were being finalised, said Abdullah, who is also Umno vice-president.

"We have a long period to celebrate that is from last June 1 to June 5 next year. We'll set the date when we are ready. Otherwise things may go hay-wire," he said

Abdullah stressed that the silver jubilee celebration would not be a carnival-like.

"It (the rally) is to commemorate, that is important, what has been achieved by the BN all this while," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the organising committee at the BN headquarters here.

He said the event's highlight would be the message from the BN chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and foreign guests may be invited to the gathering.

Commenting on the theme for the silver jubilee celebration "Together Towards The New Millennium", Abdullah said the BN's solidarity could no longer be disputed.

The BN was marching towards the new millennium with a strong foundation of consensus and cooperation, he said.

Asked on whether the gathering would be the BN's launching pad for its election campaign, he said: "Not necessary, as long as there is time and even before the election date is fixed, BN will continue campaigning."

Abdullah also denied opposition allegations that the government's recent move to ease the issuance of visas to tourists from China was to create "phantom voters" for the coming general election.

"There are no such thing as phantom voters in our country, its nonsense," he said.

"The country has enough people, Malaysians know who to vote...we do not need phantom voters from China in the next election," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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