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BN'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS NOT FOR ELECTION PURPOSE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional's silver jubilee celebration this year is to commemorate the 25th anniversary of its establishment and has nothing to do with the general election, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said it was just a coincidence that the celebration was being held at a time when the people were busy talking about the next general election.

"We cannot celebrate earlier even if we had wanted to because the BN only turned 25 on June 1 and as we had decided to celebrate we have to make the preparations," he told reporters after chairing the inaugural meeting of the BN 25th anniversary celebration committee, here.

He was responding to a question whether the silver jubilee celebration was being held to show the BN's strength because the general election is around the corner.

He said Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would decide on the date of the celebration and it would be held nationwide as the BN had members in every state.

He said the celebration, including meetings among BN component party leaders, their members and the people, was important because BN was the only political party that could bring about change in the country.

It was hoped that with the celebration the young generation would understand the idea and philosophy of the coalition which had succeeded in bringing about change and development in the country and in uniting the people through tolerance and mutual respect.

He said seven sub-committees had been set up for the celebration and today's meeting discussed the theme, logo and venue for the launch here.

-- BERNAMA

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