

04/08/1999

Celebration to mark century of achievements

Ramlan Said

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - A two-year celebration to showcase the country's achievements in the past 100 years will be launched on Aug 30. It will replace the National Day flag-raising ceremony usually held at Dataran Merdeka.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that the celebration was also aimed at instilling patriotism in the people.

He said programmes included in the celebration entitled "Malaysia's centennial towards a new millennium" were also aimed at encouraging the people to holiday in the country.

"At the same time, the events are also tailored to attract foreigners to Malaysia and boost the tourism industry," he said after chairing a Cabinet committee on the celebration at the Prime Minister's Department.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would launch the celebration at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Aug 30.

Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers would join Dr Mahathir via video conferencing in launching the celebration at the State level.

At the ceremony, the Prime Minister was expected to place a message in a time capsule that would only be opened in 2099.

Abdullah said events to mark the celebration included a cultural and heritage festival, the construction of a monument to commemorate the past 100 years, a national water festival, shopping carnivals and a fruit festival.

He said events on the 1999, 2000 and 2001 calendars would also be "co-opted" and promoted as part of the centennial celebration.

These included the National Day parade, the National Language and Arts Month, Malaysia Fest, shopping carnivals, the Formula One race, the Golf World Cup, the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition and Le Tour de Langkawi.

(END)