

24 OCT 1999

BN-Silver

HISTORIC BN SILVER JUBILEE DO AT BUKIT JALIL

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN), pillar of unity and harmony among Malaysia's plural society and the nation's prosperity, celebrates its 25th anniversary with a mammoth gathering at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here tonight.

Besides the national-level celebrations at the stadium attended by about 100,000 people, the celebrations themed "Solidly United Towards The New Millennium" is also held simultaneously at all state stadiums participated by another 200,000 people.

Supporters of the 14 BN component parties and members of the public began flocking to the stadium since evening to take part in what has been described as the "biggest political gathering in the country's history" since the historic gathering for the proclamation of the then Malaya's Independence by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj at the Merdeka Stadium here on Aug 31 1957.

Tonight's celebrations with pomp and splendour were regarded as important to remind the people of the governing BN's immense contributions and the role the then Alliance played for the betterment of the country and people.

The much-awaited event tonight is the special address by Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad followed by the reading of the BN pledge.

The celebrations started with colourful arts and cultural performances for about an hour followed by a parade of contingents comprising 14 Barisan component parties, singing of the Negaraku, hoisting of the BN flag and poem recital.

BN was founded on the cooperation of Umno, MCA and MIC under the patronage of the Alliance to fight for Independence from the British colonial masters.

Since then, 11 parties have joined the coalition. They are Gerakan, PPP, SAPP, PBRS, UPKO, LDP, Akar, SUPP, SNAP, PBB and PBDS.

Besides component party leaders, also present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will also deliver a speech in his capacity as the celebrations main committee chairman.

BN, registered on June 1, 1974 uses a scale as its symbol with a dark blue backdrop indicating fairness, justice and prosperity.

-- BERNAMA

TM TS