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BN-Silver (Colour)

NEW CHAPTER IN BN HISTORY AS IT MARKS SILVER JUBILEE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) which has been the pillar of unity among the various races and the cornerstone of Malaysia's development tonight celebrated its 25th anniversary attended by more than 100,000 supporters at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

The supporters of the 14 component parties of the Barisan Nasional and members of the public had been flocking to the stadium since early evening for the gathering -- the biggest in the Malaysian post Merdeka political history.

They carried flags, bunting and placards in praise of the achievements of the BN as they entered the stadium for this historic gathering.

Roads leading to the stadium were also decorated with banners bearing the theme of the celebrations.

The BN Silver Jubilee celebrations with the theme "Together Towards the New Millennium" were also held simultaneously across the country with hundreds of thousands of people turning up for the occasion.

Millions of others followed the events over National and private TV stations.

The celebrations are significant in that it reminded the people of the immense contributions by the BN and its leadership towards the progress and wellbeing of the nation and country.

The BN's work was indeed noteworthy, coming from 4.7 million people spread among 14 component parties.

The celebrations began with an hour-long cultural performance and rendition of songs from 6pm and was followed by a march-past by the 14 contingents of the BN component parties.

The doa was then said and this was followed up with the singing of the national anthem. The BN Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad then raised the BN flag to the accompaniment of the BN anthem and recital of a poem.

Earlier on arrival at the stadium in a Proton Cabriolet, Dr Mahathir went round the stadium acknowledging the greetings from the thousands of the people. His motorcade was accompanied by 25 motorcycle outriders, 12 Perodua cars and 13 Proton cars.

Dr Mahathir was met at the main dais by Umno Vice President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and other BN component leaders.

MIC President Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu garlanded Dr Mahathir and Abdullah.

A ballad on the BN struggle was delivered by Universiti Malaya Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) Prof Datuk Dr Firdaus Abdullah.

The 10-minute ballad traced the struggle of the Malaysian people for independence from the British and the achievements since independence through the tireless efforts of Dr Mahathir and other leaders.

The ballad also exhorted the people to continue supporting the BN which had proved that it could ensure stability and bring progress to the nation.

Some 2,200 members of the Soka Gakkai Malaysia performed logo presentations of the names of the 14 BN component parties using colour flip cards.

MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik expressed confidence that the BN would remain strong and united to help the country achieve even rapid development.

MIC President Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said the BN had proved that it was capable of bringing about development and stability to the country.

The BN would continue with its efforts of ensuring the wellbeing of the people, he added.

Umno Vice-President Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the overwhelming response from the people towards the BN celebrations indicated that the BN had a bright chance of continuing to lead the nation.

-- BERNAMA

TEAM AAM