

07 JUL 2001
BN-Convention
PM OPENS BN CONVENTION

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the Barisan Nasional (BN) convention themed "BN, Pillar of the Nation's Integrity" at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, was met on arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and leaders of the BN component parties.

The coalition until recently comprises 14 parties but the Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu (Akar) was disbanded, reducing the number to 13.

The 13 BN component parties are Umno, MCA, MIC, Gerakan, Sabah United People's Party (PBRS), Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (Upko), Sarawak National Party (SNAP), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), Malaysian People's Progressive Party (PPP) and Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB).

The convention commenced with the raising of the BN flag and the singing of the BN theme song.

Presidents of the BN component parties are scheduled to debate the keynote address by the BN chairman who will wind up the debate before the close of the convention.

This afternoon, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to launch a book on the ruling party entitled "Balancing Communal Rights".

Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to launch a video on the BN, relating the history of the setting up of the coalition in 1974, starting with the Alliance which ruled the country since independence.

The convention is attended by some 5,000 leaders and members of the component parties.

-- BERNAMA
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