

23 MAR 2001

Hamid-Maal Hijrah

THIS YEAR'S MAAL HIJRAH CENTRES ON THE THEME OF UNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 23 (Bernama) -- This year's Maal Hijrah celebrations, which falls on March 26 or the 1st of Muharam, will centre on unity as the catalyst for the development of the people.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Brig Jen (B) Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said the theme "Perpaduan Pemangkin Pembangunan Ummah" was chosen in view of the importance of unity in efforts to bring development and prosperity to the people.

"Unity, viewed as the key to the nation's strength, progress and stability, must be given due attention by all parties," he told reporters at the Islamic Centre here today.

Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah is scheduled to officiate the national level celebrations at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil here on Monday.

Abdul Hamid said that without unity, the country's development would be jeopardised even if it had enormous resources at its disposal.

This year's celebrations will start with a special Maal Hijrah forum, followed by Yasin and Tahlil prayers as well as the doa to mark the end and beginning a year on Sunday at the National Mosque.

The event would be telecast live by Radio Television Malaysia (RTM).

Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah will attend the officiating ceremony, participated also by some 13,000 staff of government departments and agencies, private sector employees, non-governmental organisation representatives and university students.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali are also scheduled to attend the ceremony.

Abdul Hamid said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong would also present the "Tokoh Maal Hijrah 1422" award to an individual for his services to Islam.

Besides the certificate and medal, the recipient will receive RM30,000 from the government and RM20,000 from the Ubaidi Foundation. He however did not name the award recipient.

--BERNAMA

NHA ES ABG