

# 50,000 to attend BN celebration

STAR 26 AUG 2003

BY NICK LEONG

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Fifty thousand members of Barisan Nasional component parties will attend a gathering to celebrate the country's unique power sharing concept, said coalition deputy chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the celebration, to be held at Stadium Merdeka on Sept 20 from 3pm, would be marked by a speech by chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"There is no comparison with the concept in the world. It is unique to the country and it has benefited us tremendously," he said after chairing the coalition's management

committee at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

Abdullah, who is Deputy Prime Minister, said power sharing had allowed all the communities to have a say in the running of country.

"All the races are represented have a say in the Government," he said, adding that although there were countries which practise power sharing, the concept was unique in this country because decision was reached by consensus.

"It is not through a show of hand where the voice of the majority sometimes overwhelmed the minority.

"We reach a decision based on consensus. It means everyone, including the smaller parties in the (Barisan) coalition,

has to agree before we act. When we reach a decision, every party falls in line," he said.

Abdullah said the theme of the celebration was *Kongsi Kuasa Kejayaan Malaysia (Sambutan 50 tahun kecemerlangan kongsi kuasa)* or Power Sharing the Success of Malaysia (A celebration of 50 years of excellence in power sharing).

"Each component party has been invited to participate and send their representatives to liven up the event," he said.

Asked on the issue of the two MCA assemblymen, Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) and Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat), Abdullah said: "We did not discuss the status of the two MCA members."