

25 AUG 2003

Abdullah-BN

MALAYSIA MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIQUE POWER-SHARING CONCEPT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- More than 50,000 members of component parties of the Barisan Nasional (BN) will attend the golden jubilee celebrations of the BN's unique power-sharing concept introduced in 1953.

The formula had been effective in ensuring unity among the various races as well as development and progress of the country, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would deliver an important address to the nation during the celebrations which begin at 3pm at the Merdeka Stadium on Sept 20, he said.

Abdullah said the celebrations would be themed "Power Sharing Behind Malaysia's Success".

The power sharing concept practised by the Barisan Nasional had no comparison anywhere else in the world, he said.

Abdullah, who is the BN Deputy Chairman, was speaking to reporters after chairing the BN Management Sub Committee on the celebrations and reviewing the reports presented by various sub sub committees.

"We have agreed to all the celebrations being planned...We hope there will be overwhelming response to the celebrations," he said after the meeting at the Menara Dato Onn, attended by BN component party leaders.

The power-sharing concept had succeeded in convincing the majority of the people that the government represented all the races and held firm to the principle of cooperation based on mutual respect.

"The BN also held firm to the spirit of musyawarah and discussions and actions are taken on the basis of consensus," he said.

Abdullah said the BN comprised 14 component parties both big and small but all had equal rights to air their views and make their case.

Abdullah also said that the date for the next meeting of the BN Supreme Council had yet to be fixed.

However when the council did meet it would discuss the situation in the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) which had two factions and the position of two MCA Assemblymen in the Penang Assembly, who had earlier been suspended.

On July 10, the MCA lifted the membership suspension of Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi). They were suspended for abstaining from a vote taken on an opposition motion opposing the construction of the Penang Outer Ring Road. Other BN members voted against the motion.

The BN would make a decision taking into account the views of the MCA, Abdullah added.

-- BERNAMA

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