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MCA-Gathering

MAMMOTH GATHERING TO HONOUR PRESENT AND FORMER PREMIERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- The MCA together with other Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties with large Chinese membership will hold a mammoth feast with the Chinese community to fete Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

MCA secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Ting Chew Peh said although the date for the feast had yet to be determined, discussions with BN component party members and Chinese guilds would be held soon for the purpose.

"We will have it (feast for the Prime Minister) before Feb 1 2004 because on Feb 1, 2004, we will also hold a mammoth feast for former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he told reporters after the MCA Presidential Council meeting at the Parliament House here.

Dr Ting said both feasts would be held jointly by the MCA, Gerakan, SUPP (Sarawak United People Party), SAPP (Sabah Progressive Party) and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) with the cooperation of Chinese guilds in Malaysia.

"The feast for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is to celebrate his appointment as the fifth Malaysian Prime Minister while the one for Tun Dr Mahathir is in appreciation for his contributions to the country over the past 22 years," he said.

Dr Ting said the MCA Presidential Council meeting today also agreed that a dialogue between the MCA and members of the Association of Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia (ACCCIM) as well as the Federation of Chinese Associations, Malaysia (FCAM) be held on Wednesday.

He said various issues on politics, economy, social and education involving the Chinese community would be discussed at the dialogue.

"The purpose of the dialogue is to hear out the problems faced by the Chinese community with the hope that MCA leaders will be able to resolve the problems highlighted," he said.

Dr Ting said the dialogue session would be attended by all MCA ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries as well as all MCA Presidential Council members.

He said the meeting today also discussed the MCA 55th anniversary celebrations to be held next year either in Perak or Penang.

-- BERNAMA

AT SSA AO