

21 AUG 2004

ABDULLAH OPENS FIRST BN COMPONENT PARTY ASSEMBLY AS PM

SHAH ALAM, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today opened the 58th MIC annual general assembly here, the first Barisan Nasional (BN) component party assembly to be officiated by him since taking office in October last year.

The Prime Minister was greeted on arrivalarrived at the Youth and Culture Complex here by MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and all the MIC top leaders. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak arrived a few minutes earlier.

Also present were former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former MCA president and former Transport Minister Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik, former MCA deputy president Tan Sri Lim Ah Lek and BN component party leaders.

The assembly started with a policy address by Samy Vellu followed by the opening speech by Abdullah, who spoke on the need for national integration for the nation to continue its prosperous ways.

The Prime Minister's 30-minute speech, touching on various national and Indian issues were well received by over 4,000 delegates, who gave him a thunderous applause when each point was emphasised.

-- BERNAMA

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