

RTM apologises over failure to give live coverage

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KUALA LUMPUR: Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM) apologised over its failure to carry live the Barisan Nasional's 50th power sharing anniversary celebrations from Stadium Merdeka on Saturday.

The Broadcasting Department Secretariat in a statement said RTM's failure to provide the live coverage was due to a technical fault which could not be avoided.

"However, on that day, Radio One had live coverage from time to time throughout the duration of the celebrations," it said yesterday.

The event was also covered in the news bulletins over TV1 and TV2 at 3pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm, the statement said.

TV1 also aired in full at 9pm Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the function, it said.

The statement also said that RTM had widely promoted the event and the history of the power sharing concept before and after independence even

before the actual date of the celebrations.

According to news reports, Barisan Nasional secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat had blasted RTM for its failure to provide the live coverage despite earlier assurances it would do so.

The former information minister said the Barisan secretariat had provided all the necessary equipment and facilities for the live coverage.

Moreover, this had been agreed to at the meeting of the celebrations' central organising committee which included Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Mohamed said.

Khalil is the chairman of the publicity sub-committee on the celebrations.

Mohamed had earlier announced that the celebrations to be attended by the Prime Minister and leaders of the 14 component parties of the Barisan Nasional would be aired live from the Stadium Merdeka. — Bernama