

20 SEP 2003

Mahathir-BN

DR MAHATHIR LEADS BN LEADERS TO MARK 50 YEARS OF POWER SHARING

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also president of the United Malays National Organisation (Umno) today launched celebrations to mark 50 years of the party sharing political power with the various races in this country.

Umno is the backbone of the ruling 14-party Barisan Nasional which represents all the races in this country.

The BN comprises UMNO, Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC), Malaysian Peoples Movement (Gerakan), Peoples Progressive Party (PPP), Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP), Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), Sarawak United Peoples Party (SUPP), Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS), Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), Sabah Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (UPKO) and Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

The celebrations themed 50 glorious years of power sharing - Power Sharing Behind Malaysia's Success-- was attended by about 50,000 people of various races who are members or supporters of the Barisan Nasional.

On arrival at the Stadium Merdeka for the celebrations, Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, were received by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and leaders of the BN component parties, who sit on the BN Supreme Council.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN Chairman, and Dr Siti Hasmah then walked towards a purple-coloured Proton Cabriolet as a recording of his poem "Perjuangan mu belum selesai." (Your struggle has not finished) was played back.

Wearing the Barisan Nasional shirt (a blue shirt with dacing symbols), Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah were then driven in the car around the stadium to the rendition of the song "Pahlawanku". Abdullah and BN Secretary-General Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat followed the Prime Minister's car in another silver Proton Cabriolet.

The Prime Minister will deliver a speech, his last as the BN Chairman to members of the Barisan Nasional parties and Malaysians as a whole at the gathering, the biggest in the history of the party.

Dr Mahathir retires at the end of next month.

Abdullah, MCA President Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, MIC President Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu and Sarawak Chief Minister and PBB President Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud will also speak at the gathering.

Dr Mahathir will also open an exhibition and launch post cards to mark the occasion.

-- BERNAMA

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