

18/09/2003

BN and its contribution

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The younger generation should always be reminded that it is the Barisan Nasional's power-sharing formula which has contributed towards the country's success and growth, said its secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat today.

He said although the younger people were aware of this, they must never be made to forget that BN had contributed towards ensuring Malaysia's peace and stability.

"There are many foreign leaders who are amazed with BN's power-sharing formula and want to emulate us. They are surprised that the various races in Malaysia can live peacefully and work together despite having different beliefs.

"Throughout these 46 years after gaining independence, BN has proven that only it can ensure peace, stability and continued growth of the country," said Mohamed at an interview in conjunction with BN's 50th anniversary celebration, which is scheduled to be held on Saturday at the Merdeka Stadium.

Mohamed, who took over as BN's second secretary-general in 1993 from Tun Ghafar Baba, said that the idea of power-sharing was visualised by Umno's first president Datuk Onn Jaafar, who wanted to open the party's membership to non-Malays.

He said when Tengku Abdul Rahman took over as Umno president, the power-sharing idea was implemented with co-operation among different political parties, which worked together for a common cause.

"Our celebration this year will focus on the achievements we have enjoyed throughout these years and how the power-sharing formula among the different races has brought about progress to the country."

Mohamed said that the success of BN's power-sharing formula had even prompted the Opposition parties to form their own coalition named Barisan Alternatif.

"However, the people realise that the Opposition parties are not sincere and the pact is for their own interest and not for the people's benefit."

Mohamed said around 50,000 members of the 14 BN component parties were expected to attend the event together with veteran leaders and those who had supported BN throughout the years.

He said BN chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the event.

There will also be speeches by leaders of three parties that make up the alliance - namely Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

A member of the BN component party, Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu (PBB) president and Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, will also deliver a speech on behalf of all the BN component parties in Sabah and Sarawak.

Among the programmes lined up for the day are a guard-of-honour mounted by BN Youth and Wanita members and a choir rendering patriotic songs.

This year's celebration is themed Kongsi Kuasa Kejayaan Malaysia (Power Sharing is Malaysia's Success).

He said Stadium Merdeka was selected as venue because of its historical significance - being the place where Merdeka was declared in 1957.

He said this Saturday's gathering would be followed by similar

gatherings in all other States, which would be attended by the BN top brass.