

16/09/2003

BN formula has ensured nation's stability

Chow Kum Hor

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Barisan Nasional power-sharing formula has laid the foundation for the country's stability and ensured racial harmony over the past 50 years, MCA leaders said today.

They said the coalition's golden jubilee celebrations on Saturday was a time for the people, especially the Chinese, to reflect on the peace enjoyed by the country which had allowed rapid progress to take place.

MCA deputy president Datuk Chan Kong Choy said the country's forefathers had the foresight to share power among the races.

"We must thank the founding leaders of the Alliance for preparing the groundwork for a stable country. It is with this stability and peace that we can progress by leaps and bounds today," said Chan who is also Transport Minister.

The Alliance, and later BN, which had ruled the country since Independence, had taken good care of the different races in the country, he added.

From education to freedom of religion, Chan said, BN had always practised pragmatic policies.

MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said after 50 years, BN was still going strong and its unique power-sharing formula had proven to be very successful.

"Malaysia is the only country in the world which practises this power sharing among all major races. That it has survived for half a century and is still widely acceptable is testimony to the resilience of this formula," added Fong, who is also Human Resources Minister.

He said MCA would continue to remind its members and the Chinese community on the need to preserve this power-sharing tradition to ensure stability so that the economy would continue growing.

Fong also paid tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also BN chairman, for the latter's pragmatic policies.

"Dr Mahathir has been the Prime Minister and BN chairman for the past 22 years. As a key figure in BN, he has been instrumental to the country's success," added Fong.

Party veteran Datuk Yap Pian Hon said the theme of this Saturday's celebrations "Power Sharing, the Success of Malaysia" was apt.

The Serdang MP said the multi-racial country had persevered and except for 1969, did not have any racial riots.