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BN golden jubilee tribute to Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Barisan Nasional's 50th Anniversary mega-celebration at Stadium Merdeka this Saturday will be a tribute to the nation's "warrior", Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said today it was only fitting that the nation thanked the Prime Minister and BN chairman at the event marking 50 successful years of power-sharing in the country.

Mohamed said this at a rehearsal for Saturday's event, where about 50,000 people are expected to attend.

He said though simple, the celebration would be meaningful as Dr Mahathir had something very important to convey to the rakyat.

Dr Mahathir is to retire next month after 22 years as Prime Minister, in which time he has led the coalition to victory five times.

Mohamed said the BN golden jubilee testified to how power-sharing had brought peace, harmony and prosperity to the nation. No group was segregated, shortchanged or sidelined, and this formula ensured equality was achieved for all races and groups.

The power-sharing formula, he added, gave everyone a role to play, from the humblest to the highest.

At the golden jubilee event, themed "Kongsi Kuasa Kejayaan Malaysia" (Power Sharing is Malaysia's Success), the BN will promise the rakyat that it will continue to ensure a peaceful, united, harmonious and successful Malaysia, with happiness for all.

"We intend to stay in power for as long as the rakyat will let us," he said.

Mohamed added that the celebration would double up as a party to welcome Dr Mahathir's successor, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

As a leader with a religious background and from a family of ulama, Mohamed was confident Abdullah would rise to the challenge of religious polarisation, and guide the nation well.

Mohamed praised the enthusiasm of the 1,400 rehearsal participants, members of the 14 BN parties, who endured the hot sun for more than three hours.

"It will be very hot, so I advise anyone planning to come here on Saturday to bring an umbrella or wear a cap.

"And if possible, wear blue. We want a wave of blue that day," he said.