

# Delegates get a foretaste of frank discussions

MSI - 6 NOV 1992

DELEGATES attending the Umno general assembly had a foretaste of their meeting today with yesterday's open and frank discussions at the Youth and Wanita wings.

The delegates have made their way- to the Putra World Trade Centre to participate in the three-day assembly which begins today.

A good number of them, including 218 from Sabah who will be participating for the first time as full-fledged delegates, have started to arrive since yesterday.

Although this year's general assembly will not see any contest for posts, it is just as important as next year's when competitions are expected for certain posts.

This year, the stage appeared set for aspiring contestants to garner support and test their popularity. The assembly will be opened by Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad whose address will be tabled as one of the four resolutions of the assembly and will be discussed at length by the delegates.

The other resolutions are on the the economy, religion and one on the appointment of an auditor. This will be tabled by Umno treasurer Tun Daim Zainuddin.

The resolution on economy will be proposed by Umno Johor and seconded by Umno Wanita and the one on religion by Umno Terengganu and seconded by Umno Youth.

The resolution on the president's address will be tabled by Umno Selangor and seconded by Umno Sabah.

The assembly will be attended by 1,752 delegates comprising 42 Umno supreme council members, 1,650 delegates from 153 divisions nationwide, and 30 representatives each- from the Youth and Wanita wings.

Some 7,000 observers and

guests are also expected to be present during the opening ceremony, including Umno veterans and Barisan Nasional component party leaders.

Seventeen representatives from the Singapore Malay Association will be attending the assembly as observers along with 13 representatives from overseas Umno clubs.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said he expected the president's address to be sharp and straight to the point. His speech is expected to draw not only Umno members' attention, but also that of the public as decisions taken by Umno have bearing on the country's development.

Dr Mahathir is expected to touch on a wide range of topics and his speech will help determine the direction to be taken by the party in the years to come.

This year's assembly will also be given wide media coverage as Umno wants to ensure that the rakyat would have access to mat-; discussed at the assem-

According to Mohamed, the Information Minister, 390 passes for local journalists and photographers from the print media and 250 for television crew including technicians had been issued. There were 25 applications for entry passes from foreign journalists.

While yesterday's joint opening of the Youth and Wanita assemblies was carried live by Radio Malaysia, today's opening ceremony will be telecast live over Radio and Television Malaysia. Prior to the assembly's opening, Dr Mahathir will hoist the Umno flag and in spect a guard-of-honour by the Youth and Wanita members in the PWTC compound. Today Dr Mahathir will host a dinner for some 10,000 members and delegates.