

11 MAY 1996

Convention

UMNO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION BEGINS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Umno's 50th anniversary convention to chart the party's direction in the 21st century began at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here this morning.

The one-day convention to commemorate Umno's birthday was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the party president.

About 2,700 people comprising Umno supreme council members, Umno Youth and Wanita exco members, 15 representatives from each Umno division, Umno veterans and representatives of Umno clubs from all over the world are attending the convention.

Some 800 guests from various sectors and Malay parties and foreign dignitaries were also present.

The convention will discuss four papers -- on politics tabled by Dr Mahathir in his policy speech, the economy by Malay corporate leader Datuk Datuk Seri Yahaya Ahmad, education and socio-culture by Tan Sri Awang Had Salleh and religion by the Director-General of the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding (Ikim), Datuk Prof Dr Ismail Ibrahim.

The convention will end with resolutions on Umno's direction in the 21st century.

Today's event is the culmination of Umno's golden jubilee celebrations. A mammoth assembly will be held at Merdeka Square tonight, besides a dinner at Dewan Merdeka, PWTC.

The celebrations included an Umno flag run by the Youth members which ended at Merdeka Square last night. -- BERNAMA

AFY AKD JK