

07 MAY 1996

Umno-Anniversary

UMNO FLAG FOR MAHATHIR AT UMNO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- The Umno flag, borne by runners for over 2,300 kilometres in their marathon run, will be presented to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed at a rally at the Merdeka Square, here, at 8.30pm this Friday.

Other top party leaders will also receive the party flags from the runners, who will commence the last lap of their run from Padang Merbok for the rally, held in conjunction with the party's 50th anniversary, to be attended by more than 50,000 people.

Umno Run Committee Chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik said today the inter-state marathon Umno run which started last week would officially end at the rally.

"The runners will then present the flag to the Umno president, deputy president, the Youth and the Wanita leaders, he told a news conference on the programme for the anniversary celebrations at the Umno Headquarters here.

A tahlil will be held at the National Mosque earlier on Friday while all the 1,600 party branches will hold the tahlil in their respective areas on Thursday.

The climax of the celebrations is a premier dinner to be attended by some 12,000 party leaders and supporters at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) on Saturday night.

Dr Mahathir will deliver a speech at the dinner, where there will also be a special video clip and a musical drama on the struggles of the party from the pre-Merdeka era to its present day status.

A one-day party convention, themed "Umno In the 21st Century", to serve as the curtain raiser for the party's future struggles will also be held on Saturday.

Dr Mahathir is expected to deliver a major speech that will touch on the importance of the members understanding the political system of the country, the effectiveness of the system and its benefits for the people.

Convention committee chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said working papers on Malay achievements in the economy, their socio-cultural interests, their religious and educational progress would be presented.

Najib said the declaration of Umno's mission for the 21st century would be left to Dr Mahathir at the convention, expected to attract some 2,500 delegates, including those from Malay organisations abroad.

An exhibition of various items and documents related to Umno's struggle, presented on the "time tunnel" concept, utilising the multi-media technology, will be held for five days, beginning Aug 28.

Exhibition committee chairman Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said a book on the Wanita struggles and their successes would be published soon.

Umno will also honour its veterans, dead or alive, with special awards at a Veteran Day celebration being planned for July.

A book on the history of the Umno and its struggles, written by veteran journalist Tan Sri A Samad Ismail, would also be launched in July, Veteran Day Committee chairman Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said.

Meanwhile, in BERANANG, the Umno flag for the southern leg of the run arrived at Kampung Sungai Jai on the Negeri Sembilan-Selangor border this morning.

Negeri Sembilan Umno Youth head Ruslan Kasim handed the flag to Ulu Langat Umno division head Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad who will continue

the run to Kuala Lumpur. -- BERNAMA
RP RHM JK