

05 SEP 1997

Mahathir-Assembly

MAHATHIR OPENS UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- The 1997 Umno General Assembly began at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here this morning attended by more than 2,500 people including 1,905 delegates.

It started with Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad inspecting a guard-of-honour mounted by Umno Youth and Wanita members followed by hoisting of the Umno flag at the PWTC grounds.

Present were party deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and supreme council members.

Dr Mahathir then proceeded to Dewan Merdeka to deliver his policy speech and open the three-day assembly also attended by leaders of the ruling Barisan Nasional component parties as well as local and foreign observers.

The Umno Youth and Wanita movements had sent 30 delegates each to the assembly.

A special assembly would be held after Friday prayers to amend the party's constitution to drop the word "new" from its name.

This would be followed by the debate on the president's policy speech.

Seventeen delegates -- 14 from state Umno liaison committees, one each from Umno Youth, Wanita and Umno clubs -- would debate on the motion.

The assembly presided by Umno permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah, would also debate on four motions -- economy, religious, education and social.

Umno incepted in 1946 has 165 divisions with 2.7 million members. --  
BERNAMA

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