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PM opens gallery commemorating 50 years of Umno

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - A gallery to commemorate 50 years of Umno's history, struggles and deeds was opened today by party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as part of the party's 51st anniversary celebrations.

Located at the Menara Datuk Onn lobby at the Putra World Trade Centre, the gallery traces the history of Umno from its inception on May 11, 1946 until its leadership under Dr Mahathir.

The display comprises some 500 pictures obtained from the National Archives and the private collection of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Professor Datuk Wan Hashim Wan Teh.

It centres around events that had led to the success of the party.

There are also in-depth explanations on the movement against the Malayan Union in 1946, the shift of leadership from Datuk Onn Jaafar (party's founder) to the days of Dr Mahathir and the history behind the establishment of the Barisan Nasional.

About 1,000 Umno members thronged the gallery after it was opened by Dr Mahathir.

He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, and the party's supreme council members.

The Prime Minister earlier raised the Umno flag at the square outside to mark the launch of the anniversary celebrations.

He also inspected some 200 members of Umno's Briged Putra Pemuda and Briged Wanita before being ushered into the hall to continue with the rest of the programme.

The gallery, which is to be a permanent fixture of the Putra World Trade Centre, is also opened to the public from today.

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