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Sabbaruddin-Umno

UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- CRUCIAL TASK FOR SABBARUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- Preparations for the Umno General Assembly may be the same every year but this year, it will be a crucial task for Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik as this is the first time he is handling the preparations since becoming party secretary-general.

" There is no problem in the preparations for the event," he told reporters at his office on the 36th floor of the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), the venue of the annual party assembly.

Media representatives were taken on a tour of the final preparations by Putrade Property management Sdn Bhd, the company which manages PWTC.

Sabbaruddin said security would be beefed up during the four-day assembly and only those with passes would be allowed to enter the conference halls of the youth and wanita movements as well as the General Assembly at Dewan Merdeka.

The youth and wanita movement meetings will be held at the Tun Dr Ismail and Tun Hussein Onn hall respectively on Thursday while the three-day General Assembly will start on Friday.

" The meeting procedures are the same and cannot be changed but physical preparations in terms of facilities will be improved," he said.

The Umno secretariate, he said, had taken into account complaints received from delegates, media and observers last year.

"I assure you we will do our best to improve and be accommodative," he said.

He said tomorrow would be a busy day when delegates begin to arrive and register themselves followed by a meeting with Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Meanwhile, tables for luncheon have been put-up, chairs for delegates at various halls have been arranged, 10,000 glasses, cups and saucers and sets of cutlery have been cleaned and ready to be set.

Putrade Property Management Senior Manager for PR and Communications Sopiah Suid said 345 helpers have been hired to help out during the assembly.

She said 10,000 dishes will be on standby to feed some 1,905 delegates and more than 1,000 walk-ins.

Executive Chef Low Keng Meng had ordered 4,000kg of chicken, 5,000 eggs, 3,500kg rice, 2,000kg chilled beef, 1,500kg squid fresh, tenggiri fish (1,200 kg), prawns (1,000kg), red snapper fish (900kg), mustard plant (550g), potatoes (500kg), carrots, round cabbages, cauli flower and tomatoes 200kg respectively, onions (160kg), long beans (90kg) and fresh coconut milk (50kg).

Sopiah said the morning and afternoon coffee breaks will be set up at the Tun Razak IV hall while lunch would be served at Tun Razak I hall.

The dinner to be hosted by Dr Mahathir for some 7,000 people will be held at an open space known as "pasar tani" next to the Tun Razak I hall on Saturday.

Anwar will host a luncheon for 2,000 people at the Tun Razak I hall on Thursday.

She said 20,170 stalks of 20 types of flowers and an additional 800 dozens would be used to decorate Dewan Merdeka, Tun Dr Ismail and Tun Hussein Onn.

Sopiah said some 800 local and foreign journalists and photographers

from the print and electronic media will cover the assembly.

She also said some 5,000 toilet paper rolls will be provided during the assembly. -- BERNAMA

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