

10/08/1998

Penang Umno first began operating at Jalan Perak

PENANG, Sun. - The opening of Menara Umno by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday coincides with the birth of Penang Umno 50 years ago but many are not aware of this.

It was not "born" at the old premises which made way for the present building at Jalan Macalister.

Archive records of the Penang Malays Association that initiated the birth of Penang Umno show that the association's rented premises at No 160, Jalan Perak was where Umno was formed in 1948.

It was used as an office for Penang Umno where leading personalities, including the late Datuk Onn Jaafar and Tunku Abdul Rahman, held meetings and party functions.

Records also show that the shophouse was rented from one Hanifah Ghulam Sarwar in the 1940s.

The foundation ceremony for the old premises in Jalan Macalister on Nov 18, 1953 was performed by the late Tunku Abdul Rahman who officially opened the building on Oct 9, 1954.

Penang State Umno liaison committee secretary Azmi Merican said even then, Penang Umno was the first State Umno to have a building of its own.

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim laid the foundation stone for the present building on Dec 12, 1995.

The 21-storey Menara Umno is a joint venture between the State Islamic Council, the State Umno and South East Asia Development Corporation Berhad.

Standing majestically on 0.4ha in the heart of Georgetown, Menara Umno also houses the State Islamic Religious Department and State Islamic Religious Council.

It has 14 floors of office space, two floors for banks, a floor for its auditorium and meeting rooms, a pent house and three floors for parking cars.

(END)