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Khalil-Umno

UMNO HQ ALL SET FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SAYS KHALIL

KUANTAN, June 11 (Bernama) -- The Umno headquarters in Kuala Lumpur is all prepared to stage the party's general assembly next week, new secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

All reports and related documents to be tabled at the assembly are ready, said Khalil, who is also Information Minister, when approached by reporters here.

Umno, which celebrated its 53rd anniversary last May 11, will hold the general assembly from June 17 to 20 at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) in the federal capital.

Delegates would deliberate on the address by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and motions on religion and economy which would also encompass issues on education, he said.

The party will also hold a special assembly on the night of June 17 at the PWTC square for party delegates, observers and representatives of Barisan Nasional component parties.

He said the special assembly would form part of Umno's psychological onslaught to gear itself towards an impending general election.

"We are acting according to a strategy and momentum mapped by the party president. We're now activating the party machinery to get ready for the general election," he said.

Khalil also said both the Umno headquarters and the Information Ministry would have a unit to counter a smear campaign against the government through the Internet.

The best way for the government to deal with the problem was also through the Internet itself, he said.

At the same time the Umno panel chaired by Supreme Council Member Datuk Ibrahim Ali would continue taking legal action against those "daringly and glaringly" defaming the party and its leaders, he said.

"We're satisfied that after we resort to taking legal action, opposition parties are less inclined to indulge in character assassination and spreading lies in their public speeches," he said.

Khalil, who succeeded Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik last month, made his debut as party secretary-general at last Monday's Umno Supreme Council meeting in the federal capital.

-- BERNAMA

ROS RYN