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Nostalgic moment as party's flag is raised

IPOH, Sun. - Ipoh Timur division chief Datuk Yahaya Shafie today raised the Umno flag to open the delegates' meeting at the Town Hall today.

It was a moment of nostalgia, for it was here that the party initiated and then adopted the design for the flag more than half a century ago. In June 1946, the second Umno general assembly was held here. The two-day general assembly was opened by the then Sultan of Perak Sultan Abdul Aziz. Members from 34 political and social organisations were present. Several shapes and designs for the flag were proposed but none had the patriotic appeal until Ikatan Setia Kampung Baru of Kuala Lumpur came up with a design that encompassed the true spirit of the Malays.

The red and white flag with a green keris placed in a yellow oval, has, since then, been a symbol of pride for Umno.

All the colours and the dagger personify Umno's struggle - red for courage, white for virtue, yellow for royalty, green for Islam and the dagger for the Malay race.

In his speech, Yahaya said that such an event should be remembered so that members would always know and understand what Umno stood for in the past, present and future.

He also reminded members to be loyal to the party and leaders, abstain from scandal and money politics and to understand and accept decisions made for the good of the party.

Yahaya said the division abided by the supreme council's advice and nominated Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Umno president and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as deputy president.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has been nominated as vice-president along with Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam.

Yahaya also said he would be contesting the post of Umno deputy permanent chairman.

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