

11 MAY 2001
Umno-Veteran
2,000 UMNO VETERANS FETED

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- More than 2,000 Umno veterans were today feted at a function here today to mark the 55th anniversary of the founding of the party.

The event was held to honour the veterans for their contributions in the struggle for independence and commitment to Malay unity.

Umno secretary general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said the party has never forgotten the sacrifices of the veterans.

"Without them, Umno would never be what it is today," he said.

He also said Umno would adapt to changes.

An hour-long video on the struggles and challenges of the party, from the time of its first president Datuk Onn Jaafar to current president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was played at the function.

The party veterans will attend a dialogue session with Dr Mahathir later in the day.

Several Umno veterans, when met, said time has changed the shape of the party's struggles although its main thrust remained that of defending the rights of the Malays.

Ahmad Sirian, 71, from Langkawi, said administration of the party has changed a lot.

Ahmad, who joined Umno in 1957, said the younger generation seemed to have not fully understood the original struggles of the party.

-- BERNAMA
AKT AFY THG