

21 JUN 2001

Umno-Opening

CUSTOMARY FLAG-RAISING MARKS START OF 55th UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- The customary flag-raising and parade inspection performed by the Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad marked the start of the 55th Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Centre here today.

He was earlier met on arrival at the Umno Square there at 9 am by the Deputy Prime Minister and party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Supreme Council members.

This time around a total of 2,027 delegates from 164 divisions nation-wide are attending the assembly until Saturday, except for those from Kuantan division whose delegates' conference was suspended.

Representatives of Umno clubs overseas and 40 observers from foreign political organisations are also attending the assembly.

After the ceremony at the square Dr Mahathir delivered his presidential address at Dewan Merdeka followed by debate on the speech by representatives of state Umno liaison committees, the youth and women's wings as well as from Umno clubs.

Radio and Television Malaysia telecast live Dr Mahathir's address.

Delegates will also debate motions on religion, education and economy.

Tonight Dr Mahathir will host a dinner for the delegates at Dewan Pameran Tun Razak of the PWTC.

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