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Over 8,000 to attend Graha Umno opening

MALACCA, Sun. - The State Umno expects more than 8,000 party and Barisan Nasional members to attend the opening ceremony of the RM12 million eight-storey Graha Umno on Jalan Hang Tuah tomorrow.

State Umno executive secretary Hamzah Bajuri said party workers were giving the finishing touches.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the building.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam and other Supreme Council members will also attend the event.

Hamzah said police are expected to close Jalan Hang Tuah to traffic for several hours to accommodate the event.

After the opening ceremony, Dr Mahathir will also visit an exhibition on Umno organised by the New Straits Times Sdn Bhd.

Hamzah said Mohd Ali would brief Dr Mahathir on the development of Umno in Malacca before the supreme council meeting.

This is the second time that an Umno supreme council meeting is being held outside Kuala Lumpur. The first time was held last year in Ipoh.

Hamzah added that Dr Mahathir would also be meeting State Umno divisional leaders after the Supreme Council meeting.

At about 8.40pm, the Prime Minister would arrive at Seri Bendahara where he will have dinner with 1,500 State Umno leaders along with party supreme council members.

Hamzah said the seating arrangement for the dinner would also be slightly different where an Umno Supreme Council member and a State Umno committee member would be present at every table.

"This is to provide party members a better opportunity of meeting senior party leaders," he said, adding that Dr Mahathir and Abdullah would leave for Kuala Lumpur after the dinner.

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