

12/05/2001

Veterans' contributions remembered

IT was their day, their celebration for they are the true fighters of the United Malay National Organisation or since its inception, known simply as Umno.

Yesterday, some 1,400 Umno veterans made their way to the Merdeka Hall of the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur as special guests at the party's 55th anniversary celebration.

This year, Umno fittingly commemorates the founding of the party and the veterans' contributions and struggle for independence that had made possible not only the uplifting of the Malays but also much of the nation's achievements today.

Among the veterans at the gathering were ordinary party members, former office bearers, state assemblymen and members of parliament who represented divisions throughout the country.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, vice-presidents and other party leaders joined them at the special gathering.

Abdullah, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohamad Najib Abdul Razak, Umno Youth leader Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein were among Umno leaders who joined them for lunch.

Earlier, they were welcomed on arrival at the hall by secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and others.

They included Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah and Datuk Mustapa Mohamad.

In his welcoming speech, Khalil said the party appreciated and valued the veterans' contributions and sacrifices without which little could have been achieved.

"Without your sacrifice, Umno could not have progressed to what it is today.

"All members should be sensitive towards the party's development and be committed in ensuring Umno's continued progress."

A documentary was shown depicting the party's past struggle and its achievements today.

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