

20 JUN 2002  
Umno-Assembly  
UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- The Umno General Assembly 2002 began at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived at 9am and took the salute, accompanied by Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

He then inspected the parade mounted by 56 members each from the Putera and Wanita brigades and Puteri Umno, led by Kapten (R) Suznan Saad of the Putera brigade at the PWTC square.

Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and pro tem head of Puteri Umno Azalina Othman Said accompanied him during the inspection.

Dr Mahathir then raised the party flag to the accompaniment of a choir comprising students from the various schools.

Two paragliders carrying a banner with the words, "Umno perjuangan sebuah bangsa", and the Umno flag hovered above.

After the flag-raising, Dr Mahathir opened the assembly at Dewan Merdeka with his keynote address.

Present were the leaders of the Barisan Nasional component parties, 45 representatives of parties from 18 countries and foreign delegates.

A total of 2,033 delegates are attending the meeting which ends on Saturday. Umno, which turned 56 this year, has about 3 million members.

-- BERNAMA

BD AZZ RHM JK