

14 JUN 2002

Umno-Opening

REPS FROM 12 POLITICAL PARTIES ABROAD TO ATTEND UMNO ASSEMBLY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 (Bernama) -- Political parties from 12 countries including China and North Korea will send their representatives to the Umno General Assembly 2002, on Thursday.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said during a media briefing at the party headquarters, here today that the political parties concerned have confirmed their attendance.

The parties include the Communist Party of China, Workers Party of Korea and the Singapore National Malays Organisation.

The other parties are the Cambodian People's Party and Funcinpec, United National Party from Sri Lanka, "Otan" (Republican Political Party) from Kazakhstan, State Peace and Development Council from Myanmar, Arab Ba'th Socialist Party from Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman.

On the gist of the policy speech by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Khalil said: "Wait for the opening day. There is certainly punch (in the speech)".

"I can't disclose now, otherwise there's no suspense left," he said.

Khalil said the general assembly will also be attended by delegates from 30 Umno Clubs overseas including from Pakistan, New South Wales and Melbourne in Australia, Chicago, Japan, Egypt, Indonesia and England as well as Ireland.

He said 2033 delegates will attend the assembly this time which will debate three motions namely the president's policy speech, religious and social issues as well as educational issues.

"There is no specific motion on economy but economic matters are usually debated under the policy speech," he said.

He said the opening ceremony will kick off with the raising of the Umno flag before Dr Mahathir delivers his policy speech and simultaneously opens the assembly at 9.30am.

The Dewan Merdeka PWTC, the venue for the assembly, is already busy with the annual Umno activities beginning Tuesday when Dr Mahathir, as party president, will give the presidential briefing in the afternoon.

Earlier at noon, Dr Mahathir will launch the book "Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah, Umno Permanent Chairman," at Dewan Tun Dr Ismail.

Khalil said that in the evening, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, as Umno deputy president, will simultaneously open the general assembly of the Umno Youth and Wanita movements and the Puteri Umno Convention at the Dewan Merdeka.

"The opening ceremony in the evening on the eve of the general assembly for the Youth and Wanita movements and the Puteri Umno Convention is aimed at saving time and allowing more delegates to debate the motions," he said.

He said the general assembly for the Youth and Wanita movements and the Puteri Umno Convention will be held on Wednesday from 8am to 6.30pm.

In the evening, the Umno Supreme Council will hold a meeting.

Khalil said tight security measures are being enforced and only those with special name tags issued by the Umno headquarters will be allowed to enter the assembly hall and media centre.

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