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Off to a fine, flying start as nation watches

THE flag-raising ceremony by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in front of the Umno headquarters kicked off the 56th Umno general assembly yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was greeted on arrival by the party's permanent chairman Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah, deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

The three vice-presidents, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib were also present; so were the heads of Youth, Wanita and Puteri wings: Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Azalina Othman Said, and party executive secretary Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor.

Dr Mahathir inspected the "guard-of-honour" mounted by 168 members of Umno Youth's Putera brigade, Wanita and Puteri Umno members.

Two paragliders from Selayang division took to the sky displaying Umno banners.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Abdullah, Khalil and Adnan, raised the Umno flag while a choir of Umno members' children sang the party song, Bersatu, Bersedia, Berkhidmat.

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