

90,000 meals to be ready

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KUALA LUMPUR: The kitchen in the Putra World Trade Centre will be a hive of activity as cooks and staff scurry to prepare a total of 90,000 meals, the biggest amount ever, during the four-day Umno general assembly starting on Thursday and the meetings of its three wings starting tomorrow.

During previous assemblies, the kitchen prepared 65,000 meals for breakfast, tea, lunch and dinner.

Putrade Property Management Sdn Bhd (Putrade) chief executive officer Datuk Yaakob Mohammad said based on orders by the party's state liaison committees, more members were expected to come to the PWTC this year to listen to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's last presidential speech

at the assembly opening.

"This year, Puteri Umno will also officially send delegates to the assembly," he said after bringing the media for a look at the preparations for the assembly yesterday.

To cater to the needs of such a large gathering, Yaakob said additional staff were hired.

"On my part I have to make sure that food is sufficient for everybody, especially since they will be coming from afar," he said, adding that 68 chefs would prepare Malay traditional dishes.

Putrade has also hired 520 additional staff for the food and beverage, kitchen and house-keeping departments.

The large amount of ingredients needed to prepare the meals include 3,500kg of chilled

beef, 4,600kg of chicken, 1,500kg of prawns, 7,000 eggs, 150 tins of cooking oil, 3,500kg of *tenggiri*, 5,200kg of rice and 500 pineapples.

To serve the meals, 120,000 pieces of dinner plates, dessert plates, glasses, cups and saucers and cutleries would be used.

Dewan Tun Hussein Onn has been allocated for the observers to watch the president's speech live on big screens while closed-circuit television monitors would be set up on all floors of the PWTC, he said.

He said preparations started four months ago and one of the most difficult tasks was coming up with the backdrops for the locations for the general assembly, Wanita assembly, and Youth and Puteri assemblies.