

19 JUN 2003

Umno-Assembly

54TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS AT PWTC

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- The 2003 Umno General Assembly, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's last as party president, began today at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

The assembly's itinerary began with the arrival of Dr Mahathir at 8.50am.

Upon his arrival, Dr Mahathir was met by Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Secretary-General Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob as well as Supreme Council members.

Dr Mahathir then took the salute from the guard-of-honour mounted by 57 Putera Brigade, 57 Wanita Brigade and 57 Puteri Umno members at the PWTC Square.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Wanita Umno Chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Umno Youth Chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Puteri Umno Head Azalina Othman Said when inspecting the guard-of-honour.

Dr Mahathir then raised the Umno flag, accompanied by the party's theme song and that of the three Umno wings, performed by a choir made up of secondary school students.

After the reception at the PWTC Square, the party president proceeded to the Dewan Merdeka where Dr Mahathir will deliver his keynote address and open the assembly.

Umno's 54th General Assembly, attended by 2,248 party delegates, ends Saturday. Also present today were leaders of Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties and foreign delegates.

Umno, which celebrates its 57th anniversary this year, now has three million members.

-- BERNAMA

MUN HS ROS ZUL