

18 JAN 2003

Khalil-Umno

GENERAL ELECTION TO DOMINATE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY- KHALIL

PENANG, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- This year's Umno General Assembly is likely to focus on preparations for the General Election in the absence of party polls, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

As the nation entered the fourth year since the last General Election in November 1999, everyone including Umno members was beginning to talk about the election, he said.

The Prime Minister who is the Umno President had the prerogative to decide when to call for a general election, he said.

"As to whether this will be the last Umno General Assembly before the General Election, we do not know, for this will be up to the Umno president to decide," Tan Sri Khalil said after launching "Adwave 2003", an advertisement programme organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia communication students here.

This year's Umno General Assembly would be a historic and memorable one as it would be the last with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the helm as he was scheduled to retire in October this year, he said.

Tan Sri Khalil said that he had directed the Umno Secretariat to make all necessary preparations for the party general assembly.

"The various plans and programmes for the general assembly will be tabled at the Umno Management Committee chaired by Deputy President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said.

Launching Adwave, he said local advertising agencies were now on par with those overseas and with sophisticated technology they were able to produce top class advertisements.

In the last five years, the Malaysian advertising industry had emerged as a prominent industry in the communication media field and investments in it were not considered excessive but something very necessary.

Tan Sri Khalil urged institutions of higher learning in the country to produce graduates to meet the demands of the advertising industry as its future was bright.

ADWAVE 2003, themed "Voyage of Senses", was an annual event of the USM and participation in the various events such as advertising workshop and competitions were open to universities in the Asean region.

-- BERNAMA

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