

19 JUN 2003

Umno-Khalil

UMNO NOW FORMIDABLE, HAS THREE MILLION MEMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Umno has reached its most formidable position and is ready to translate its strength into an outstanding victory in the next general election, said Umno Secretary-General Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

He said measures implemented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the government, party and Barisan Nasional (BN) have reaffirmed the people's confidence in Umno as well as the BN since the 1999 general election.

This year's Umno general assembly saw the presence of an additional 165 delegates, from the Puteri Umno wing which was officially endorsed last year.

Khalil said this when updating developments in Umno at the party's 54th General Assembly in the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

The 2003 Umno General Assembly saw the presence of delegates from the party's "youngest" division -- Putrajaya, as observers.

Khalil said various measures have been implemented by the Umno divisions as well as its Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings to attract more of the Malays to join the party.

Khalil said as of yesterday, Umno had 19,034 branches and 3,038,025 members nationwide.

He also thanked the Umno committee on Membership Drive and Voters' Registration for the successful implementation of measures to increase the number of party members and register them as voters.

"The complicated and heavy tasks in this detailed processing will be continued to ensure each of the Umno members be registered as voters," he said.

To ensure Umno members to have full knowledge and information on the party's direction and struggle, Khalil said the Umno Training Bureau has held a series of training programmes.

Khalil said Umno's efforts to attract the younger generation to join the party drew positive and encouraging response from this group.

He also said there were 44 Umno clubs abroad.

To ensure that Umno members have access to the latest information on the party, the "Umno On-Line" website had been set up which so far recorded over 3.97 million hits, he said.

Khalil said closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) were placed at various spots at the PWTC lobby and corners to enable non-delegates and members of the public to view the Umno general assembly.

The 2003 Umno general assembly was said to draw the largest number of observers as compared to the assemblies in previous years following Dr Mahathir's announcement that he will relinquish the Prime Minister's and Umno President's posts in October.

Dewan Merdeka, the venue of the general assembly, was crowded with the delegates and observers since early today.

Major roads leading to the PWTC were congested since 8am but traffic policemen were deployed to regulate movement of vehicles.

-- BERNAMA

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