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Dr Mahathir to deliver keynote address at Umno's 57th anniversary bash

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the keynote address at the party's 57th anniversary celebrations to be held at the Merdeka Stadium on Sunday.

Umno executive secretary Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansur said more than 40,000 Umno members and supporters were expected to join in the celebration.

Themed, "The Struggle of the Race", Tengku Adnan said the celebration would be broadcast live on television.

"The Merdeka Stadium was chosen because of its historical significance of being the place where the second Umno president, Tengku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj declared Malaysia's Independence," he said at a Press conference on preparations for the anniversary celebrations.

Present was Putra World Trade Centre chief executive officer Datuk Yaakob Mohammad.

Tengku Adnan said due to the overwhelming response at last year's celebration at Stadium Melawati Shah Alam, the party's supreme council decided to hold the event in a place of similar capacity.

"There will be a few surprises in store for this year's celebration.

"The event starts at 6.30pm with a flag-raising ceremony at 8.30pm.

"After delivering his keynote address, Dr Mahathir and the other Umno leaders will cut pulut kuning.

"There will be an aerial show of parachuters carrying a picture of the Umno president and party flag. There will also be a fireworks display," he said.

Tengku Adnan said Umno members will also receive a souvenir book chronicling the contributions of Umno to the development of the Malays and the world of Islam.

On the divisional meetings, Tengku Adnan said with the exception of the Kubang Pasu division, which was allowed to hold its meeting on May 23, the rest have concluded their meetings.

"The management committee agreed to allow Kubang Pasu an extension as the division wants its head (Dr Mahathir) to open the meeting," he said.

All the 165 Umno divisions were given a month beginning last April to conclude their annual general meetings.