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For veterans, celebrating party anniversary is always memorable

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - For Umno veterans, celebrating the party's anniversary is always memorable as it enables them to reflect on their contributions and struggle.

It is also a time to take stock of everything so that they can continue making a difference despite their age.

And for many, it feels good to be remembered.

Take 65-year-old Mohamad Yeop Salleh, who is the former Datuk Maharajalela branch information head.

He looks forward to meeting his old friends and sharing experiences with young party members.

"I am glad that I am able to attend the event again this year.

"I also feel honoured that the contributions of the veteran party leaders have not been forgotten."

He said the move by State Umno liaison committees to set up party veteran associations should be applauded as it would give senior party leaders and members a chance to impart their knowledge.

"Through such associations, we get a feeling that the present party leaders still remember and appreciate our services," said Mohamad Yeop, who is the Perak Umno Veterans Association's secretary.

His friend, Muhd Ariffin Muhd Nawawi, 65, the former Ipoh Timur Umno division information head, said after 57 years, the party was still a strong force in empowering the people to stand up for their rights, religion and country.

"Umno's contribution has resulted in the country's tremendous development today. While I am happy to participate in today's anniversary celebration, I do feel a bit sad as our beloved president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) will be stepping down in October.

"I wish him all the best."