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Khalil: Make this year's Umno assembly a memorable event

PENANG, Sat. - The Umno general assembly this year will be the most important event in the party's history as this will be the last assembly for Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said he had asked the party's secretariat "to arrange something distinct to enable all delegates to remember this very special day".

"The assembly in June will be a very significant milestone for all delegates because it is the last time Dr Mahathir is going to join us in such a huge gathering.

"We want this day to be the most memorable event for every delegate, especially Dr Mahathir," he said at a Press conference after launching Universiti Sains Malaysia's Adwave 2003 project.

Also present were USM Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, USM School of Communication dean Dr Mohamad Zin Nordin and Adwave 2003 project director Esther Hu Mong Siem.

Dr Mahathir had on the last day of the 56th Umno general assembly last June, shocked the nation by announcing his resignation as party president and chairman of Barisan Nasional.

Khalil said he would present a proposal on his preparation for the "big day" to the Umno's management committee, to be chaired by party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi soon.

He declined to reveal the details.

Asked if this would be the last Umno general assembly before the next general election, Khalil said the assembly was an annual event.

On other highlights of the assembly, Khalil added that it would depend on the keynote address presented by the president and other "talked-about" issues reported in the media.

"We will also look at events happening at the international, regional and national-level which attract the people's attention.

"Looking at the overall scenario, I am sure we will not be short of any topics for discussion," he said.

Earlier, Khalil, who is also Information Minister, commended the advertising practised by corporate and conglomerate organisations in the country.

"We are proud that you not only try to promote your products but try to bring meaningful messages in your advertisements, especially those with Malaysian values," he said.