

**Umno To Facilitate Discussion Of Major Issues - Ahmad Maslan**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Umno will facilitate the discussion of major and serious issues for the good of the country, the party's information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan said Saturday.

He said that Umno, as a party which has been existence for more than 60 years, would continue to organise various scholarly forums and seminars to enable the people express their views.

Ahmad, who is a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said Umno would continue to strive for the people, religion and country.

"As the principal partner of the Barisan Nasional (BN), Umno will continue to do the best for the people, and hopefully we will succeed in the next general election," he said in his welcome speech at the National Seminar on Understanding Wasatiyyah and 1Malaysia opened by Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, here.

Also present were Rural and Regional Development Minister and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, Puteri Umno chief Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin and Melaka Chief Minister and Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam.

Asked about the seminar later, Ahmad told reporters he was happy that the Umno-organised programme has received encouraging response.

More than 1,200 people from various groups in the community attended the seminar.

"This is a good start to Umno's holding of scholarly programmes to discuss major issues. We do not want the party to be seen as talking about trivial and inconsequential matters.

"We concluded just now that Wasatiyyah encompasses moderation, equilibrium, balance and fairness. We are most happy that this approach has become the talk of the world," he said, adding that similar seminars would be held in the states soon.

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