

Thousands at National Stadium for Umno anniversary
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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Stadium at Bukit Jalil is a sea of red as thousands of Umno members converged to celebrate the party's 66th anniversary.

The crowd arrived from all over the country as early as 3pm as a show of force by Umno for the impending general election.

Umno members waiting for the event to start

By 6pm, the 60,000 capacity stadium was filled to the brim with many having to stand up.

This year's anniversary celebration is like no other as not only will it see a massive gathering of members but will stretch for three days till Sunday.

While it may be a political gathering, the celebration has a festive and carnival atmosphere to it, with the crowd blowing the vuvuzela and singing along to patriotic songs.

Former president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali received loud cheers as they arrived in the stadium.

Party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak brought the crowd to their feet several times in what some described as "red-blooded war cry".

Knowing that election fever was in the air, Najib grabbed their attention and said: "With this kind of mood, I feel like seeking an audience with the King tomorrow."

When the crowd cheered, he asked them: "Are you ready? Can we win? What about tomorrow? June? Next year?".

The party president offered seven reasons why people should support Barisan in the election.

Among the reasons were Barisan could be treated and had delivered its promises, only the coalition could promise that tomorrow would be better than today and it respect the Constitution, rule of law, sanctity of Islam, Malay rulers and the rights of all races.

"Most of all, Barisan can guarantee unity and harmony of the country," he said.

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