

Hussein a true democrat, NST 29 JUN 1981 says Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The president of Umno and the man who will be Prime Minister on July 16, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad**, today paid the highest tribute to his predecessor, **Datuk Hussein Onn**, calling him a "statesman" and a "true democrat".

In his maiden speech as party president and the closing speech of the 32nd Umno General Assembly, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir** prayed for the Prime Minister's health and well-being in his retirement from the nation's highest office.

Experience

Hundreds of delegates responded with loud cries of "Amin". Some were visibly moved, wiping away their tears while

Datuk Hussein himself, barely managed to hold back his tears.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir thanked **Datuk Hussein** for easing the process of leadership changes in the party.

"In a world where leaders do not easily relinquish their posts unless pressured to do so, **Datuk Hussein's** action will surely be honoured.

"We in Umno and the nation are proud of this statesmanly act of **Datuk Hussein**. History will record this as an event that is greatly valued and honoured."

He expressed the hope that **Datuk Hussein** would be prepared to "allow me to continue to reach and meet him from time to time.

"I believe his rich experience as a statesman will enable him to play an advisory role as our older brother."