

'IT WAS A BRAVE AND FRANK SPEECH

BRAVE and frank — that is how most veteran politicians described the 75-minute presidential speech delivered by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Umno general assembly.

They said the various contemporary issues, including nationalism, money politics, religion and trade unions raised by the party president were clear and constructive and should be taken into serious consideration by all concerned.

Former Prime Minister and ex-Umno chief Tun Hussein Onn said Dr Mahathir's

explicit reference to the practice by some people in the business sector in using the positions of Rulers for their own benefit should be given due consideration.

He said Dr Mahathir's statement on the unhealthy practice could alert the people to think of the adverse consequences on the image of the Rulers.

Former Umno secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Jabar believed Dr Mahathir's frank speech on the salary claims by trade unions should make them understand the Government's position and the economic slowdown.

He said union leaders should call on their members to adhere to the Prime Minister's warning in the interest of the people and the country.

Veteran politician and former Penang Yang di-Pertuan Negeri Tun Sardon Jubir in commending Dr Mahathir for his brave speech said the issues of money politics and nationalism should be given serious attention by all concerned, particularly Umno members.

He was convinced that weaknesses within the Malay community could be overcome through the inculcation of the spirit of nationalism.

Tun Sardon said money politics was new in Umno. It was not heard of during the party's early struggle.

Other veterans felt Umno members should remain united especially at this time when the party was facing various challenges.