

Delegates rally behind unity call

Dr M gets full support

MS1 30 SEP 1985

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.
— The 36th Umno General Assembly ended today with the delegates giving their unqualified support to the leadership of party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The proceedings during the three-day assembly reflected the overwhelming response to the traditional call for unity in

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unity in the brotherhood of Umno members.

The easy passage of the constitutional amendments giving the supreme council extraordinary powers at the special sitting of the assembly was also reflective of the confidence and trust the members have in party leaders.

The spontaneous and thunderous applause that followed Datuk Musa Hitam's remark that "we

the face of the coming general election expected "next year or in 1987" and the challenges facing the party and the nation.

The delegates expressed their loyalty to the leadership and affirmed their commitment to the Umno struggle as contained in the president's speech during the two days of debate.

That the party is gearing itself for the general election is evident from the absence of fiery speeches critical of the leadership and the delegates' avoidance of controversial issues which had cropped up during the last one year.

Dr Mahathir himself made an impassioned plea for unity and the need to close ranks at the close of the assembly before leading the delegates in reading the "Oath of September 29" as an affirmation of their loyalty to the party and

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must be united behind Dr Mahathir when he decides on the next general election" is another apparent endorsement for the leadership of the Prime Minister.

The deputy Umno leader, during his reply to points raised by delegates in their debates in the assembly, in a voice almost choked with emotion, also pledged his loyalty to the party president and Prime Minister of the country.

The delegates gave their thunderous response again when Dr Mahathir, who spoke after his deputy, said he had never doubted Datuk Musa's loyalty to him in the party and Government.

He told the delegates to make it their duty to dispel rumours about the split in the leadership. "No more stories from now on," he said.

Datuk Musa's show of unequivocal support reinforced Dr Mahathir's repeated denials of rumours of their estrangement.

Thus the delegates applauded again to what they see as a loaded re-

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