

# Dr M lauded for voicing issues

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Umno members today praised Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for being forthright on issues affecting the Malays and the nation.

Umno vice-president Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said Dr Mahathir was bold and sincere in voicing those issues that the Malays have suppressed for so long.

He said it was important to confront those issues, like the New Econo-

mic Policy, for the well-being of the nation.

Datuk Abdullah said non-Malays should not misconstrue the speech and label it as being "anti non-Malay or non-Bumiputera".

Datuk Abdullah said the speech was not a warning but a firm stance adopted by Umno in particular and the Malays in general on issues affecting them — especially the NEP.

Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Mohamad Adib Adam said the speech was an

exposure of the problems facing Umno and the Malays.

"We hope that we can now resolve these problems in a serious, honest and open manner. The speech is indeed a brave one... it is important to expose all these problems because the confidence of the leadership had been undermined by certain quarters."

Datuk Seri Adib said he felt the speech was significant following the resounding victory of the Barisan Nasional.

Wanita Executive Council member Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said Dr Mahathir had "bared it all. He has said in no uncertain terms that the MCA had better pick up and improve its standing with the Chinese grassroots if it wants its demands to be met.

"He has explained the facts and our firm stand with regards to our role and contribution to the stability of the country, through our role as the leading party in the Barisan Nasional."

She said Dr Mahathir had made known that the mandate given to Umno was strong. She said the Umno president had also stressed Umno's sincerity in co-operating with the other races by appointing representatives in the Government.