

otion of thanks for speech passed

# Big 'aye' for Dr Mahathir

AST 20 SEP 1986

**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. —** The 37th Umno general assembly today gave a resounding "aye" to the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president and Prime Minister when it unanimously passed a motion of thanks for his policy speech.

Thunderous applause and a standing ovation greeted the end of his hard-hitting and frank speech yesterday and it received unanimous support from delegates when the motion of thanks was put to the vote today.

The 13 delegates who spoke on the motion and others who spoke on the resolution on education and the economy took the cue from him and spoke with candour on policies and issues affecting Malays and the nation.

## Support for Govt

Echoing their party president, the delegates not only hit out at critics of the Government and Umno but also those who had criticised the New Economic Policy and the National Education Policy.

They urged Umno to ensure that the Government remained firm in its implementation of national policies.

There were shouts of "no more compromises" when certain issues relating to Government policies were raised by those who spoke during the debate.

The motion of thanks, which was tabled by the Bachok division, among other things, congratulated Dr Mahathir for leading the Barisan Nasional to a resounding victory in the general election.

The motion also supported the Government's efforts to overcome the economic slowdown and

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the leadership's efforts to unite the people, fight the dadah menace and other anti-social activities which could destroy the foundation of society.

It also applauded the Government for its efforts to instil Islamic values and enhance the status of Islam.

The motion also pledged the delegates' support for the Government's programme to uplift the standard of living.

It also recorded its appreciation to Dr Mahathir for playing an important role in the economy and international politics and making Malaysia well known.

The delegates labelled the critics of the Government ingrates.

These groups and individuals who questioned the NEP, its objectives and implementation were asked to examine the history and the understanding arrived at by the early leaders of the nation.

The delegates expressed amazement that these critics were so vocal about the NEP when they had been the ones to benefit the most from the policy.

At the same time, however, while defending the Government's stand on the NEP, the delegates also reminded the authorities to evaluate the success of the policy to date.

If there were failures, measures must be taken to rectify them, the delegates said.

They also stated that the Bumiputeras, despite being the indigenous people of the country, were still lagging behind the other races in terms of ownership of wealth and education.

The second day of the general assembly was dominated by issues pertaining to the national education system — sprinkled with some comments on the rift between Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa Hitam.

Education was linked to the issue of racial polarisation and national unity, with delegates calling for firm measures to ensure that the younger generation of Malaysians were carefully tutored in national history.

This would ensure that they fully understood the foundation upon which the country was built.

The delegates also wanted the Government to stand firm on Section 21(2) of the Education

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# Questions about 'rift' between the PM and Musa

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Act, 1961.

Some delegates took time off from debating the resolutions to ask questions about Datuk Musa's resignation earlier this year.

Yesterday, the delegate from Johore demanded that explanations be given about the circumstances leading to such an "unfortunate" situation; today, however, another delegate said the matter should be put to rest.

The representative from Negri Sembilan said the so-called rift between Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa was merely a family affair, similar to the quarrel between husband and wife — which, though serious at the start, would ultimately

be solved by the end of the day.

Dr Mahathir is expected to reply to several issues raised during the assembly, including the "rift" between him and Datuk Musa.

Asked by a reporter today during the afternoon tea break whether he would answer the numerous points raised by delegates during the debate, the Prime Minister said: "I shall answer the questions tomorrow."

The Umno president and supreme council members will begin replying to points raised during the assembly in the winding-up at 11am tomorrow, the last day of the assembly.

The assembly also passed two of the four resolutions scheduled for debate. These pertained to Dr Mahathir's address yesterday and that on education.