

# Speech by a true Malaysian leader

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno and Barisan Nasional component party leaders today described Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the opening of the Umno general assembly as by a true Malaysian leader.

They said all Malaysians should respond to the Prime Minister's call for unity for the sake of stability and progress.

Dr Mahathir, they said, spoke with sincerity when he called on the people to bury their differences.

Umno deputy president Ghafar Baba: "Dr Mahathir's speech is clear in that anything that affects the party should be solved within the party and not be dragged to court.

"Unless it is a question of swindling or cheating, other matters should be solved within the party framework. I hope all members will heed this call.

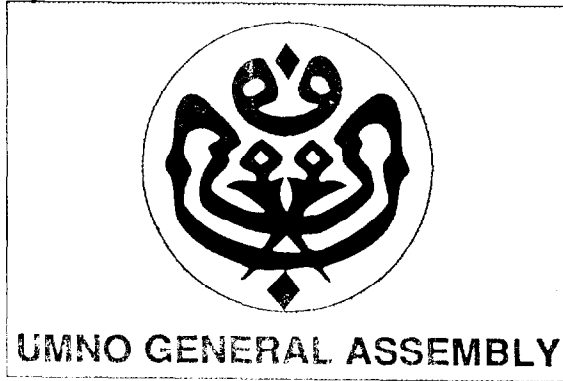
"It is true what the Prime Minister said about Malays needing to strive on their own to better themselves. The Government is always willing to help them but it is the people who should take the initiative to make full use of the opportunities made available to them."

**MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik:** "It was not the speech of a Malay leader but a Malaysian leader. His call for unity reflects the feelings of all Malaysians.

"We hope the proposed unity talks (between Dr Mahathir and Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah) will succeed. We will be very happy if people can sit down and talk things over to try and reach a consensus... we will only be worried if they refuse to talk".

**Works Minister and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak president Datuk Leo Moggie:**

"Dr Mahathir gave a very good speech and showed his sincerity in trying to make sure Umno unity is maintained. He was very positive and definite and he also spelled out clearly the role that Tunku Abdul Rahman could play."



**Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik:** "Everyone must analyse the Prime Minister's speech closely to understand what he is saying so that we can all help him achieve the vision he has set for the nation.

"He was not merely making a speech. He is personally and emotionally committed to what he said. Dr Mahathir clearly said the Government is only as good as the people want it to be... if the people are committed to a better nation, then we will get a better nation.

"The proposed meeting with Tengku Razaleigh is part of efforts to unite the people for political stability."

**MIC vice-president Datuk K. Pathmanaban:** "It is clear that Dr Mahathir

continues to hold true to his promise to bring the Malay community and also the nation together.

"His speech and his recent actions are a clear indication that he is sincere in his action and thoughts."

**PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan:** "The Prime Minister's speech contained the important message that we must all be united. More importantly in an environment where democracy allows everyone to express himself in many ways, including forming political parties.

"Community and political party leaders must therefore work towards uniting the whole country. It is also good if Umno leaders are able to communicate and patch up whatever problems be-

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*Encik Ghafar Baba*

tween them."

**Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib:** "It was one of his best speeches. He touched on a variety of topics but focused on Malay unity which is currently one of the main issues.

"His call for the forging of unity is timely and appropriate and the Malay community should rally behind this call."

**Umno vice-president Datuk Abdullah Badawi:** "It was the most persuasive speech the Prime Minister has made on Malay unity. It was very consistent with his views and his recent actions.

"What Dr Mahathir said received good response from the majority of the people and we hope it will also convince others of his sincere efforts."

**Umno supreme council member Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman:** "Dr Mahathir's speech was overwhelming and it comes from the bottom of his heart. It shows that unity is the issue which is uppermost on his mind.

"His speech provokes the conscience and is bound to make people involved in the cause to bring about Malay unity. I am sure the Semangat 46 group did not expect Dr Mahathir to humble himself to give Tunku Abdul Rahman the honour to be the go-between."

**MCA vice-president Datuk Lim Ah Lek:** "A very good and thorough speech. I am touched by his sincerity to see the Malays united and I hope others will follow his example."