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PICTURES: ZAHARI ZAKARIA, SHUKOR RAHIM, TUN IZHAR ISHAK AND ZAHARI RAZAK.

Thumbs up from a thankful party

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Umno general assembly today gave a thumping endorsement to the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president and Prime Minister of the country.

This came out during the one-day debate on the resolution for a vote of thanks to the party president for his keynote address to the general assembly yesterday.

The delegates also gave the thumbs up for the points raised, the exhortations made and the sentiments expressed by Dr Mahathir in his speech.

In the debate, the delegates also urged the Government to take firm action against the threats to the country's political, economic and social stability.

Thirteen speakers spoke during the debate, 10 representing their respective State Umno liaison committees and one each from the Youth and Wanita wings and the Umno overseas clubs.

The issues they debated included the need to continue Umno's political dominance, efforts to recapture Kelantan and Sabah in the next general election, firm action against those who had conspired with the Opposition and steps to further develop the country.

The assembly also paid its tribute to Dr Mahathir for his successful leadership of the party, Barisan Nasional and the Government for its achievements in economic development and national solidarity.

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BN parties urged to continue backing Dr M

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It said the Prime Minister was also responsible for enhancing recognition of the country's role in the international arena.

The party also pledged firm support for Dr Mahathir in his efforts to maintain peace and make the nation more prosperous.

"Hopefully, God will give him the strength and guidance in his determined efforts to promote the interests of the people and the country," said the resolution, which was unanimously passed.

The delegates also want-

ed the component parties of the Barisan to co-operate in giving their trust to the Prime Minister and Umno to lead the Government and to continue efforts to develop the country.

This was because Umno had played a major part in the Barisan Nasional's success in getting the mandate from the people to continue to govern the country.

There were also delegates who wanted the Government to take stern measures against States where a majority of the voters sympathised with the Opposition.

They demanded that fin-

ancial aid to such States be withdrawn as a lesson to the people for voting for the Opposition. To Kelantan in particular, they said the Pas Government should be left on its own to prove its ability to develop the State.

They also expressed regret over the attitude of the Chinese community in Penang who openly supported the Opposition.

The anti-federal activities being actively perpetrated by the PBS Government in Sabah were also raised during the debate. The delegates wanted the Federal Government to stop such activities.