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PM'S SPEECH WOVES DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

Umno-Mahathir (opening)

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KUALALUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's keynote address opening the Umno General Assembly here today had those present listening in rapt attention.

Delegates and observers alike, including foreigners, closely followed the speech, lasting more than an hour, in a hushed atmosphere occasionally interspersed with applause or laughter.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, varied the tone of his voice to emphasise certain points and this was usually greeted with loud applause.

He also had the audience in stitches by interspersing his speech with jokes and witty remarks.

On one occasion the hall broke into laughter when he said: +Your clapping is not that loud.+ -- more

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He also drew laughter when he mentioned the name +Pak Man Telo+ (who is linked with get-rich-quick schemes) when stressing a point on how some Bumiputeras sold their business permits to non-Bumiputeras for quick gains.

The Prime Minister, dressed in a purple national dress, was greeted with loud applause when he entered the hall to take his seat before the start of the proceedings.

The assembly began with the reading of the doa by Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, and this was followed by the mass singing of the +Bersatu Bersetia Berkhidmat+ and +Umno Teras Negara+ songs to the accompaniment of the Umno choir. -- Bernama

♥08/11/15-48MST