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UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS MAHATHIR 'S STRUGGLE

Umno-Chairman

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Ret-nama) -- The Umno General Assembly fully supports Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's struggle for the developing and poor countries in the international arena.

Its Permanent chairman, Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah, said today the Prime Minister had underlined his leadership qualities through his positive actions at the international level.

Tan Sri Sulaiman said his eloquent and spirited speech at the United Nations fascinated many and established him as a hero of poor countries and champion of humankind.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had also made Malaysia proud in his capacity as chairman of the Commonwealth Group of 11, he said in his opening remarks at the Umno General Assembly opened by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

Tan Sri Sulaiman said the Prime Minister had carried out these duties steadfastly apart from continuing to concentrate on national development through the Vision 2020. -- more

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Umno-Chairman 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Earlier, on taking his seat as Permanent chairman, Tan Sri Sulaiman told the delegates that this year's assembly was being attended by about 300 observers, including from Sabah Umno, Indonesia's ruling Golkar party, the Singapore Malays National Organisation and 12 Umno Clubs overseas.

For the first time, Sabah Umno was also represented in the Supreme Council through Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun, he said to loud applause from delegates and observers.

Meanwhile, Umno Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat told the assembly that 29 of the 10,032 Umno branches throughout the country failed to hold their delegates' meetings while Tanjung Karang was the only division that did not hold its annual meeting this year.

Datuk Mohamed later told reporters that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan and the African National Congress were invited but did not send representatives to the assembly because of problems at home.

He said Umno would continue to invite representatives of political parties of friendly countries to future assemblies. -- Bernama

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