

Umno president calls for discipline,

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Graft must stop,

efficiency, sincerity

says PM

By Ahmad A. Talib

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a reminder to Umno members which was also directed at all Malaysians, said corruption in whatever form must stop and that a new culture based on strong discipline, efficiency and sincerity must be developed.

Addressing Umno's annual general assembly here today, the party president also told Malay and Bumiputera businessmen to cease believing that profits in commerce and industry could only be obtained through deceit, adding that quick profits did not last.

"Easy come, easy go," Dr Mahathir told the large gathering of delegates, observers and guests in the packed Tun Hussein Onn hall of the Putra World Trade Centre, the venue for all Umno assemblies in the past several years.

Dispensing his own brand of straight-talking wisdom and philosophy based on rational thinking on issues such as power and responsibility, Islam for development, the National Development Policy (NDP), the challenges towards the 21st century, Vision 2020 and Umno's responsibility, Dr Mahathir was very much in his element as he delivered his speech over one hour and 15 minutes.

Interspersed with applause and shouts of approval from the floor, the Prime Minister took his audience to the early days of Islam, its arrival to this country, the situation in this country before independence, the argument concerning Vision 2020 and shared his views regarding the challenges the nation faced as it approached the 21st century.

Dr Mahathir said: "Just because the individual is a Malay or is a Bumiputera does not guarantee that he is going to get whatever he wants. On the other hand, if the individual shows good qualities, is trustworthy, efficient and is often successful, the Government will in-

crease the opportunities according to his ability even though there may be allegations of favouritism.

"Those selected and favoured are those who can implement successfully the objectives of the NDP... not Bumiputeras who waste national wealth."

He threw a challenge to the Bumiputera business community, saying that those whose transactions were confined to Government contracts alone were not genuine businessmen.

"If they are truly efficient, their test would be their abilities to penetrate the open market," he said.

The Prime Minister then refuted attempts by certain quarters to discredit the objectives set out under Vision 2020. They had said that the policy would distract Muslims from preparing for the hereafter.

"Once again, attempts are being made to weaken the spirit of the Malays through misleading and baseless interpretations of Islam, with a trace of political motive."

Dr Mahathir drew the crowd's biggest cheer when

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concluding his speech on the responsibility of Umno and its members. After telling the members to equip themselves with knowledge, efficiency, wealth and resilience before undertaking their task of helping to create a new breed of Malaysians to withstand future challenges, the Prime Minister said:

"We have no time for ridiculous interpretations of Islam. We have no time to be involved in seeking positions for ourselves. We need not ask who is about to replace whom: We have no need for cliques and teams. We need not waste our time with numerous predictions."