

Delegates praise Dr M's keynote address

DELEGATES from developing countries lauded the keynote address by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ugandan Senior Environment Adviser Wardenya Charles said: "We're all impressed. He (Dr Mahathir) articulated the views of developing countries very, very well.

"He hit the nail on the head. He used the language of force. All the major issues such as technology transfer, biodiversity and financial resources," he said.

Charles said: "We are supposed to preserve the environment but for who? They want our biodiversity but they don't want to transfer technology to us.

"In my country, the poor people depend on resources for energy, for firewood and to build their houses.

"If you're going to tell them not to cut the forests, are you going to provide them with alternative sources of energy?"

Zaire delegation head Lukabu Khabouji N'Zaji echoed the comments.

"The language used was the same language that Zaire uses. If he was aggressive it is because some countries do not want to hear this language," he said.

Brazilian co-ordinator for the preparation for the Earth Summit Macedo Soares also praised the Prime Minister's speech.

Zimbabwean deputy secretary for Environment and Tourism M. Moyo said the speech by Dr Mahathir was excellent.