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Umno-speech (reaction)

MAHATHIR'S SPEECH HAILED AS UNIFYING ADVICE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Leaders of political parties have described Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech opening the party general assembly today as positive towards uniting party members to face the country's future challenges.

They also regard it as comprehensive, far-sighted and firm, especially those portions related to international issues like suppression of Muslims by the international community.

Newly-elected Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Dr Mahathir emphasised on party elections as it was a big task of the party president to close ranks among party members as soon as the elections were over.

Anwar, who is Finance Minister, said he supported Dr Mahathir's advice for the victors in the elections to refrain from being arrogant and for the losers to accept reality and not feel alienated.

"Only in this manner can Umno continue to be accepted as a credible platform to champion the cause of the Malays," he said. -- more

ROI MTA MGN

▼04/11/15-48MST

R PE 04-11 00156 EG102

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Umno-speech (reaction) 2 Kuala Lumpur

Former Umno Youth head Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak welcomed as timely the prime minister's reminder to party members not to be over-zealous during the party elections as to forget the primary responsibility of ensuring Umno's victory in the next general election.

"We had anticipated that Dr Mahathir, as president, will offer advice like a father to all involved in this election," he said.

Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said Dr Mahathir's reminder that there was no team in Umno should be welcomed and the matter should be put into practice.

She said Umno leaders should set a good example for delegates, and that good leadership would be emulated by Umno members.

We should not merely say the speech was good but did not follow the advice given, she said. -- more

MSJ MTA MGN

▼04/11/16-09MST

CNS8818

R PE 04-11 00148 EG103

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Umno-speech (reaction) 3 Kuala Lumpur

Lay Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said the speech was a fair and balanced one and good for the party, emphasising party interests that should be the main goal of all members.

On Malays criticising government policies, as raised in the speech, he said that whether one supported government policies or not, one must accept that government policies had brought Malays to the level they were at now.

Former Foreign Minister and veteran party member Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie said the speech contained many positive matters for one to ponder.

Dr Mahathir, he said, did not want party members to be narrow-minded as it could undermine the party.

The team mentality was a narrow attitude which should not exist in the party, he said. -- more

MSZ MTA MGN

▼04/11/16-20MST

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Umno-speech (reaction) 4 Kuala Lumpur

Newly elected Umno Youth head Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, who is Melaka Chief Minister, said the movement would use Dr Mahathir's speech as a guideline to champion the party's interests.

Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said the reminder that groups should not exist in Umno should be given attention and should be remembered by all party members.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said the speech clearly showed the aspiration of the prime minister to bring Umno to a higher level and to project the Malays as a community able to compete with others in Asia.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the party supported the call of Dr Mahathir that the country could only progress if the people were of good behaviour, prepared to learn and ready to serve the nation.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said Dr Mahathir gave good advice in the interests of Umno members though certain quarters might feel uneasy. -- more

MNY MTA MGN

▼04/11/16-29MST

CNS8837

R PE 04-11 00130 EG105

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Umno-speech (reaction) 5 Kuala Lumpur

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, said the threat posed by the West to Islam stemmed from jealousy at the resurgence of Islam, especially in aspects like justice, family values and Islamic economics, now increasingly and evidently accepted.

"Progressive Islamic countries like Malaysia are the greater target of the threat," he said.

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) president and Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the speech was interesting and provided a picture on the future of Umno.

Indirectly, the speech also touched on the pattern and form of the country's future political and economic development, he said. -- more

MGM MTA MGN

▼04/11/16-42MST

CNS8846

R PE 04-11 00160 EG106

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Umno-speech (reaction) 6 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) president Datuk Mark Koding said the speech was sincere, firm, fair and balanced and should be welcomed by all, particularly Umno delegates.

"In an era of challenges and globalisation, the vision projected by the prime minister should be followed by all the people," he said.

Washington DC Umno Club president Firdaus Haji Mokhtar said the speech also touched on a group of Malay elite overseas who had forgotten the deeds of Umno.

Guests from the African National Congress (ANC), Encik Ahmat Davids and Encik Tahir Salie, said they were impressed with the spirit and comradeship they saw at the general assembly.

"The experience we have had as observers has taught us many things which can benefit the ANC in facing the first general election in South Africa next year," said Tahir. -- Bernama

MGM MTA MGN

▼04/11/16-52MST