

# PM'S WAY

THE Prime Minister gave a sobering insight into how to tackle the *boh-sia* phenomenon, drug addiction problems and loafing culture — by building up strong inner self-defences.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad explained how rhetorics like chiding, proposals of more stringent laws and even religious lectures would not help in solving these problems in its entirety.

"Reject these bad elements not because of laws or what others exhort you, but because they are simply bad for you," he said.

As the last Umno leader to reply to points raised during the three-day party general assembly yesterday, Dr Mahathir put into perspective the root cause of the the existing social ills whose eradication was the responsibility of all.

He also brushed aside doubts on the effectiveness of the Rakan Muda programme, asserting that the plan was a start in the right direction.

Earlier, three other Umno leaders replied to points raised, starting with Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman who spoke mostly on religious issues but he couldn't resist a humorous anecdote.

"I just got a note from my wife which simply says KISS...which means 'keep it short, stupid!'"

Johor Menteri Besar and Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin replied on the need for an Islamic Education Policy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim spoke mostly on issues related to education and details on Budget 95 which he tabled last month.

Earlier, 13 people debated on matters pertaining to moral and social issues.

The general assembly unanimously passed the resolutions on strengthening the family institution and the importance of parents in assuming their roles to educate and instil religious and moral values in their children.

The resolution, tabled by Perak Wanita Umno representative Kamalia Ibrahim, was seconded by FT Umno Bukit Bin-

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— Dr Mahathir

tang division chief Roslan Omar. The resolution calls for educational institutions and the mass media to include in their curriculums and programmes positive values such as love for science and technology subjects and encourage social interaction skills among the younger generation.

## Jokes

As the delegates filed out of the Merdeka Hall after the Umno song and *Negara Ku*, an air of relief seemed to wash off on everyone as they went about congratulating each other on their speeches.

Some delegates seemed deep in thought, perhaps silently thinking over the events of the past four days while others took out the tension by exchanging jokes and pleasantries.

Observers with special

tags moved around looking for familiar faces and saying hello to friends and acquaintances but beneath the exuberant exterior, they appear to be scrutinising the situation with learned eyes.

Delegates were also seen hugging each other — this time saying farewell until next year.

A delegate commented: "I cannot wait to see my grandson and my three-day-old granddaughter."

This year's debate, many delegates agreed, fell short on humour where speakers often come out with delicious anecdotes but their articulation, eloquence and ideas went several notches up.

The 38th Umno general assembly is over but its leaders, delegates, observers and supporters will have something to mull over during their journey home.

# **TO TACKLE SOCIAL ILLS**