

11 MAY 1996

Mahathir-Debate

"DUMB" SYNDROME SHOULD NOT EXIST IN UMNO, SAYS DELEGATE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Umno members should not be mere followers but must have the courage to give views on the form of democracy to be pursued by the party, the Umno 50th anniversary convention was told today.

Umno Federal Territory delegate, Datuk Roslan Ali Omar, said the party leadership should also encourage members at all levels to discuss and offer criticisms on whatever issues involving the party including that of leadership problems.

He said he did not want the "dumb syndrome" to exist in the party as party members of late did not dare come forward to give their views on any compromise reached on certain issues.

There was a need in Umno for balance so that there would not exist a situation with leaders being strong and members weak, he said when debating the policy speech of the party president at the convention.

Senator Mastika Junaidah Hussein from Perlis wanted Umno to base its nationalist spirit on Islam.

She said such a spirit should be present in all members especially those who have registered to contest for posts in the party elections in October to ensure that Umno was lead by leaders who are clean, efficient and trustworthy.

Negeri Sembilan delegate, Yunus Rahmat, welcomed the stand of the country's leaders of not glorifying western democracy.

Yunus, who is Jelebu Member of Parliament, said national leaders need to have vision and be far-sighted.

They should also be courageous and able to make decisions involving the interests of various races, he said. -- BERNAMA

SJA MTA CTL