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Mahathir-Tears

MAHATHIR CRIES AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH AT UMNO ASSEMBLY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today spoke of spreading money politics in Umno endangering the future of the Malays, called on party members to vote out corrupt leaders and broke down in tears during his presidential speech at the Umno General Assembly.

The Umno president and Prime Minister visibly fought to regain his composure and went on to finish his speech.

But his voice trembled and faltered as emotions threatened to overcome him.

As one, the delegates stood and applauded in a show of moral support to the Prime Minister. Many of them were also seen wiping away tears.

They shouted "Hidup Mahathir" (Long Live Mahathir) several times as they clapped their hands.

Several journalists who were following Dr Mahathir's speech on close-circuit television from the media centre were also moved to tears.

He urged Umno members to "love the party, love the race, love the religion and love the country".

"I pray that those who vote today will do so with all sincerity, thinking of Allah the Almighty.

"Good willing, by doing so, God will protect us, save our struggle for the sake of our race, religion and nation in order for us to evolve the Malay and Islamic civilisation in the 21st century.

"With this, we can redeem the dignity of our race," he said in winding up his speech which he took one hour and 25 minutes to deliver and which was carried live by TV1.

Dr Mahathir appeared overwhelmed by his feelings for his people as he used the same words which he penned for a poem he recited in public several months ago: "Our struggle has not ended."

He said a lot more needed to be implemented and initiated by the Malays, especially Umno members, before they could become a race that is developed and respected by the world.

The Malays have the talents and the ability and there are signs reflecting their ability to achieve the targets they have set, he said.

"Do not scarifice our future. Do not sacrifice the new culture and civilisation that we will build, just for the small gain we make today," he reminded Umno members.

Dr Mahathir said he was saddened because he was forced to expose Umno's "dirty linen in public".

"But I believe that calamity will befall us if we do not reject those who bribed us," he said. -- BERNAMA

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