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Umno-Mahathir (Gist)

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Following is the gist of Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's winding up speech at the party's general assembly today.

+ Malays should not take pride in Malay reserve land because it actually symbolises their economic weakness.

They should be proud if they are able to buy land outside Malay reserves when their economic status improves.

+ Dr Mahathir asked owners of Malay reserve land in Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur, to be willing to sell their land to Bumiputera entrepreneurs at a fair price for development.

+ He urged Malay students to take up science and technology subjects although these are considered tough to pass and not take the easy route to obtain their degrees.

Despite the government making available facilities for them to take up such studies, the problem is that Malay students still choose subjects which are considered easy.

+ Dr Mahathir said the shortage of skilled manpower, such as doctors, engineers, architects and lawyers, among the Malays is because many parents are more keen to send their children to religious schools including "pondok" schools without giving equal attention to other fields.

Don't blame the Education Act; the mistake is in the choice of the Malays themselves.

+ He said the Muslims are compelled to depend on other people to meet their needs including modern equipment to defend them because they have no capability to make it themselves.

This is the result of their weakness of giving too much attention to questions of religion to the extent of ignoring other needs even though Islam wants its followers to progress in all fields.

+ Dr Mahathir said money politics in whatever forms, whether less or more, must be rejected because it will weaken the party. Umno members should not view payments to buy votes as earnings because there are "halal" (permitted) and "haram" (prohibited) earnings.

True earnings come from development and economic growth brought about by an Umno that is strong, free of corrupt practices and victorious in every general election.

+ Dr Mahathir wants Umno to lead the reformation of the Malays and other Bumiputeras because of the present golden opportunity to achieve progress on par with other races without sacrificing their existing good values.

+ Dr Mahathir welcomes the proposal to establish an Umno institute to, among other things, study the values of all cultures to make them a part of a new culture for Malays.

+ He announced that the Foreign Ministry's former secretary-general Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar has been appointed Malaysia's special envoy on East European affairs.

+ He said the recent election of Tan Sri Razali Ismail as president of the United Nations General Assembly was planned since eight years ago, proving that if Malaysians are determined to achieve something, it will be successful.

+ Dr Mahathir wants those who lost in the party election to study the reasons for their defeat so that they can overcome their weaknesses.

+ He announced the Umno-sponsored Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (KUB) will be listed on the main board of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) with 137,000 members receiving shares worth RM1.3 billion.

+ Dr Mahathir advised Umno members to be patient in seeking position or post in the party. He himself waited 18 years before becoming an elected representative after entering politics through joining Umno, and it was another 10 years later that he became a minister. -- BERNAMA

ZKS JM AO