

07 SEP 1997

Umno-Multimedia

DELEGATE INTRODUCES MULTIMEDIA AID FOR UMNO DEBATE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- A Selangor delegate today became a pioneer of sort in the history of the Umno general assembly for his use of multimedia as a debating aid.

Senator Datuk Ghazi Haji Ramli made good use of multimedia applications to present his case when debating a motion on economy on the last day of the party's 1997 general assembly here.

Ghazi told the assembly he used the approach in response to Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call that Malaysians endear themselves to the information technology (IT) in line with the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project.

He spoke on six topics -- national resilience and challenges, the Asian resurgence and smart partnership, the IT strategic sector, privatisation and distribution, the Malay middle-class and competitive edge.

Ghazi's presentation was generously accompanied by graphics of facts and figures projected onto a large screen in the assembly hall at the Putra World Trade Centre and over closed-circuit television.

His multimedia illustrations included information on Malaysia's achievements and Dr Mahathir's criticisms of United States financier George Soros, whom the prime minister had blamed for the recent speculative attacks on the ringgit.

In his debate, Ghazi, among other things, called for greater cooperation from the private sector in helping the government to stop further depreciation of the ringgit by reducing imports and using more local goods.

He said they could use the Internet and electronic commerce to gather information on the list of local products available.

Ghazi also coined his own meanings for the acronyms IT and MSC.

To him, IT also means "Islam Tulen" (genuine Islam) and MSC, "Mahathir Sangat Cerdik" (Mahathir So Clever) or "Mahathir Sangat Comel" (Mahathir So Cute).

"To remember the MSC, take note of this because the MSC is Dr Mahathir's invention. If we do a good deed, God willing, the Almighty will inspire us to come up with something which people will remember us by forever," Ghazi said.

The MSC is a 750-sq km zone south of here devoted to the development of multimedia products and services.

Ghazi said the MSC would shape Malaysia's future as a glorious Islamic nation.

He concluded his presentation by showing how delegates could use the CD-ROM to recite and understand the Quran as well as an vital source of reference. -- BERNAMA

AFY NAK rn