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Electronics makes its entrance as an aid

THE concept of making a visual presentation using an electronic notebook and a video screen is not new, yet this method finally made its way into the Umno general assembly for the first time yesterday.

Ghazi Ramli, a delegate representing Selangor Umno, used the giant video screen in the Merdeka Hall to augment his debate.

He demonstrated the latest CD-Rom technology that had been applied on utilising the Quran, where a sample of the Al-Baqarah verse was recited electronically.

Excerpts of reports on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad from foreign magazines were also displayed on the video screen for the delegates to ponder.

Ghazi, who declared his unabashed love for IT and computers, said the reports were proof of foreign recognition of Dr Mahathir's leadership.

Quoting excerpts from Fortune, Newsweek and the Far Eastern Economic Review, Ghazi said the country was now being "monitored" by the world.

"We have to support the Prime Minister to fight financiers like Soros and other market manipulators," he said. "We must win because the world is watching us."

Ghazi said the Multimedia Super Corridor project must be supported by all Malaysians.

"Selangor Umno fully supported the MSC," said Ghazi.

To promote understanding on information technology, Ghazi said computer awareness programmes like TV3's Cyberwave should be simplified to reach the masses, especially those in the rural area.

Debating the same resolution, Negri Sembilan Umno representative Firdaus Harun felt that there should be close monitoring on the implementation of ruling on bumiputera participation and bumiputera quota at national and state levels.

A comprehensive study and census both at national and state levels should be conducted, he said.

Findings should be reviewed every three years to ensure the objectives of the national development policies are achieved, he said.

He said it was regrettable that a study by the Entrepreneur Development Ministry showed that only six per cent of shophouses in the Klang Valley were owned by Bumiputeras.

"In my place in Rembau, the number of bumiputera ownership of shophouses is almost nil," he said.

It was also suggested that UDA Holdings Sdn Bhd be allocated RM1 billion to buy lots reserved for bumiputera which were not taken up until the lots could be sold to eligible buyers in future.

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