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Umno-clubs

FOREIGN OBSERVERS WELCOME UMNO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- The policy address of Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, touching mainly on issues relating to religion and language, had drawn the interest of many foreign observers especially students who are members of Umno clubs in overseas.

According to the adviser of Connecticut Umno Club, United States, Zaidi Che Mat, the president's address at the opening of the 51st Umno General Assembly here today had awakened the Malays to move ahead without having to sacrifice their cultural values.

"This is the first time that I hear Dr Mahathir openly gives his opinion about religion which has been vaguely commented all this while," he said.

The Chairman of Chicago Umno Club Ahmad Ikram Ismail welcomed Dr Mahathir's suggestion of wanting the Malays to learn foreign languages in pursuit of knowledge.

"It's not the government's intention to neglect the Malay language but this is important in our pursuit of knowledge. We must be proficient in other languages like English to master foreign skills because all information technology come from the West, especially the States," he said.

According to him, technological transfer is very rapid and Malays have always been left behind because translating books from English into Malay language takes considerable time.

He said what was emphasised by Dr Mahathir was that Malays must be proficient in other languages so as to put them on the same level with others in pursuing their ambitions.

Surabaya Umno Club chairman Haznizul Faizal Hashim was drawn to Prime Minister's speech on attitude changes among the Malays for a more successful Malay community to ensure that future generations could still enjoy what the current generation was enjoying.

Haznizul too agreed with Dr Mahathir on view of absorbing the Islamic values in moderation, slowly and not done in a hurry.

"I hope that Umno's struggle as voiced by the President will succeed for the race, religion and nation's sake," said Haznizul who also felt that one needed to master at least two or three languages to succeed.

Mohamad Lufti Zakaria, the President of Cairo Umno Club, said that religious education should be taught during the early age among the children to ensure that they would not fall prey to social problems when they grew up.

Mohamad Lufti, a student in Revealed Knowledge, said religious knowledge and secular must always be in equilibrium to develop a country successfully. -- BERNAMA

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