

26 OCT 1997

Rally-Mahathir

INDIANS BURN SOROS' EFFIGY IN SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- Some 2,000 members of the Indian community pledged allegiance to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and burned an effigy of American financier George Soros as a symbol of protest.

Held at Dewan Pandu Puteri here, the gathering was organised by the All Malaysian Indian Progressive Front (IPF) and participated by more than 20 associations representing the Indian community in the country.

IPF President M. G. Pandithan said the rally was to give the Indian community an opportunity to openly declare their support for Dr Mahathir who was recently under attack by foreign media.

"Now is the time for the people to be united in supporting Dr Mahathir against foreign manipulators and speculators," he said.

Also present was Cuepacs President Mohammad Mat Jid, who called on the people to be grateful.

"If we do not know how to show gratitude, then let us at least be grateful," he said, referring to the prime minister's contributions to the country.

Umno Supreme Council member Senator Datuk Ibrahim Ali said such gatherings was to show foreigners that the people of Malaysia were united against threats from outsiders.

"This is not about worshipping our leader, but (his) struggles must be taken into account," he said to the rounds of applause of those present.

Also present at the rally which lasted more than three hours were NUTP Secretary-General Siva Subramaniam. -- BERNAMA

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