

19 OCT 1997

Sikh-Support

MAHATHIR GETS FULL SUPPORT OF THE SIKH COMMUNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Members of the Sikh community turned up in full force at 12 temples here today to demonstrate full support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's action in stabilising the ringgit and the economy.

Special prayers were also performed for his continued good health "and to give Dr Mahathir the strength and ability to run the country as in the past."

The biggest gathering was seen at the Sikh Centre and Gurdwara Sahib in Sentul where chief priest Jaswant Singh led the prayers.

The president of the Sentul Sikh Centre, Arjan Singh, said the Sikh community was very confident of Dr Mahathir's leadership and fully supported whatever steps he takes to make the ringgit strong and stable again.

"It is the trait of the Sikhs never to betray their leaders, and he is our leader. Therefore we never question him...we accept him and never question his authority. That is the prayer," he said.

"We don't question the Prime Minister because we know that he is doing the right thing for the country, not for himself. The western press can question him, but we don't," he said.

Arjan Singh said that the Sikhs supported Dr Mahathir as the leader of the government as they had always been supportive of the government's actions and methods to bring the country to success which the Sikh community had also benefited directly or indirectly.

A committee member, Mej (R) Kirpal Singh, criticised undesired elements for belittling Dr Mahathir's efforts and by saying that the economy of the country was going down and had been destroyed.

"The Sikh community feels very strongly that he is doing the right decision so far under the present situation, and we will make sure that the Sikhs will not go around spending excessively on unnecessary goods," he said.

He added that a telegram had been sent to Dr Mahathir to support whatever actions he had taken, and "we always have his health in our minds as we consider him as a special person and our strongest leader and we wish him full recovery."

Dr Mahathir is down with flu. -- BERNAMA

ZAB RM