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President again calls for tolerance and moderation in nationalism

IN an address consistent with his well-known remarks on moderation and tolerance, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reiterated his call for these two qualities to form an integral part of nationalism.

The Prime Minister said the true nationalists were those who worked hard to advance their race and are capable of competing successfully with those who have progressed.

Dr Mahathir said: "A true nationalist is one who is respected because he is part of a successful race which can defeat others in any field. A true nationalist is one who can ensure that his race will be respected and held in esteem, through what he has excelled in."

He said this in his speech when declaring open the Umno annual general assembly here. Among those present were leaders from the component parties of the Barisan Nasional, diplomats and dignitaries who traditionally fill the front seats of the packed Dewan Merdeka.

As in previous addresses, Dr Mahathir's speech will be debated in the next two days by delegates whose presence at the assembly forms part of Umno's overall strength and influence. Besides exhorting Umno members to stay clear of corruption and help consolidate efforts to create a culture of excellence, Dr Mahathir also refuted beliefs which have affected the progress of Muslims.

He warned the party members that the country would be destroyed if there was widespread corruption which brings with it spiralling costs of goods and services and corrupt people running the government.

He said there were more dangers from corruption than what the people perceived as the scourge would stifle the country's growth and everyone would end up poor.

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