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Rally to Dr M's side, members told

UMNO members must give their undivided support to the party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in defending the nation's economy against stock market manipulators and rogue speculators.

"The country's economy will still survive despite the attacks by these rogues who are jealous of its successes," Umno Youth representative Zahyadi Awang Noh said when tabling the motion of thanks on the presidential address.

Zahyadi said the country's economic fundamentals were still strong and there was no problem for it to achieve the objectives of Vision 2020.

However, Umno members and the public must give their full support to the Prime Minister by working together as a team.

"At the same time, we must be alert against corruption and slander if the successes we have achieved thus far are to be sustained," he said.

He praised past and present Umno leaders who subscribed to the concept of leadership by example which has made the nation widely respected by the international community.

"To some countries, we have become their role model," he said. "Dr Mahathir's efforts have put the Malays at par with the other races".

In seconding the motion, Perak Umno delegate Hamdi Abu Bakar said the Multimedia Super Corridor project mooted by Dr Mahathir was in line with Islamic teachings.

Islam, he said, encouraged the people to acquire knowledge and the MSC fulfilled this role.

"It will become an advanced information centre when completed," he said.

Hamdi said the people should not be influenced by groups who belittled the project out of jealousy.

Malaysians, he said, should give their undivided support to the project and utilise fully the MSC facilities.

"We do not want only the Prime Minister to go 'shouting' about the MSC but the people showing no support for the project," he said.

"Umno members should, without being told, take the lead and prepare their family members to face the challenges that will come along with the MSC," he added.

Hamdi said unkind remarks and baseless allegations were not only levelled against the MSC project but also directly at Dr Mahathir.

"These people either do not want to see the project materialise or simply do not understand the MSC," he said.

Hamdi said these people claimed that the Internet, which provides valuable information, would bring a lot of harm than good especially to children and youths.

"But they forget about the facilities provided by the Internet...like having access to telemedicine," he said.

Hamdi said people indulged in unhealthy activities even prior to the existence of the Internet and therefore the allegations were baseless.

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