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UMNO-Motion (Thanks)

SET UP AGRICULTURE ENTREPRENEURS FUND, URGES NEGERI SEMBILAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The Government has been urged to set up an Agriculture Entrepreneurs Fund to help create a crop of rural entrepreneurs who will practise modern, commercial farming.

Making the call at the on-going Umno General Assembly here, the delegate from Negeri Sembilan Hasimuddin Abdul Kadir said the move would help rural society increase its income, put idle land to good use and expand the Bumiputera middle class in the country.

Hasimuddin said rural Malays had much land but lacked capital and resources to develop their land.

Taking part in the debate on the motion of thanks to Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his address when opening the party general assembly, he also urged the corporate sector and giant companies operating in the country to arrest the fall in the ringgit's value.

He also said Malaysians involved in stock market manipulation should be banished.

The delegate from the Federal Territory Datuk Azman Atar Othman urged the government to monitor the Federal Territory Religious Affairs Department particularly the administration of mosques and suraus where according to him the staff were mainly PAS sympathisers.

He said about 90 per cent of the mosques and suraus in the Federal Territory were administered by staff who championed PAS' struggle.

He said these staff allowed imams and khatibs from PAS to deliver khutbah and talks which discredited Federal Government leaders.

They also hurled slander to bring hatred against the Barisan Nasional government and leaders of BN component parties.

He urged Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, who is also Federal Territory Islamic Affairs Chairman to be more firm and study the background of the FT Mosque and Surau committee members.

Azman also urged the government to throw the authors of poison pen letters into prison.

The delegate from Selangor, Mohamad Zain Mohamad told the assembly that his state in efforts to become fully developed by 2005 had come up with a "10 Pillar Programme."

The first aspect of the programme was to ensure that all Federal projects in Selangor such as Putrajaya, Cyberjaya, KLIA and MSC were implemented and completed on schedule.

Mohamad Zain said Selangor Umno was thankful to the party leadership for appointing Datuk Abu Hassan Omar as Selangor Menteri Besar.

Abu Hassan had brought renewed strength and unity to Selangor Umno, he said.

The delegate from Melaka proposed several measures which the people could take to help the government prop up the share market, which according to him, had been manipulated by foreign fund managers.

Mohd Khalid Nordin of Johor urged Umno members to increase their investment in shares and strengthen the share market.

He also urged Malaysians who owned property overseas to sell it off and invest the funds in Malaysia.

Malaysians should also be thrifty and go for domestic tourism, he said.

He also said Johor Umno fully supported the move to postpone big projects such as the Bakun hydro-electricity project following the fall in

the value of the ringgit through manipulation.

Ahmad Hamzah of Melaka urged Malaysians to go for Malaysian-made goods and services to help reduce the country's current account deficit.

Ahmad, using Malay poetry and proverbs, stressed the importance of increasing productivity in agriculture and in all other fields.

He also urged the Malays not to be jealous and envy each other but instead together strive for progress of the race.

Sabah delegate, Yusuf Latip Mustapha urged government leaders to match their own words and calls with action such as when asking people to buy Malaysian-made goods and being thrifty.

He said government leaders were the ones mostly using imported goods such as luxury cars whereas the country now built its own cars which could be used by them.

He also urged the government to speedily coordinate the enforcement of Syariah Law among the various states such as those concerning the aurat and indecent behaviour in public.

"Is it appropriate for Muslim men to be barred from taking part in body-building contests," he asked.

Wanita Umno delegate Zuraidah Haji Musib said her movement was ready to give ideas and manpower to find an approach to implement programmes to make Bahasa Melayu a world language.

The delegate from the Pekan Baru Umno Club in Indonesia Long Kechik said the time had come for Malaysia after 40 years of independence to strengthen its Islamic civilization and become the foremost Islamic nation.

Long who also studied in Pakistan switched to Urdu and urged Malaysians to work hard to achieve excellence.

The motion of thanks was proposed by Umno Youth and seconded by Perak. Fourteen delegates took part in the debate on the motion which was unanimously passed. -- BERNAMA

HS AAM