

19 JUN 1998

Umno - reaction (foreigners)

CRISIS ENABLES DR MAHATHIR TO PROVE METTLE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Resolving Malaysia's current economic problems will again enable Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to prove his mettle, said a foreign observer at the 52nd Umno General Assembly here.

Dr Mahathir has "his own ways of doing things", said Thai Member of Parliament for Bangkok, Ong-Ard Klampaiboon.

Notwithstanding this ability, he said, Dr Mahathir would still need "solid support from his party members to see him through the difficulties".

Ong-Ard, who is also the Democrat Secretary for the Thai Foreign Minister, is representing Thailand at the three-day Umno general assembly, which began today.

Ong-Ard commended Dr Mahathir for his ideas and concepts relating to ways of dealing with the current regional economic and financial crisis which has severely beleaguered Thailand.

He said the prime minister's ideas would be specially beneficial to Malaysians.

Another observer, Bosnian Deputy Foreign Minister Huso Zivali said the key to Malaysia's strength in taking on the economic turmoil was the unity of its people.

"Each country has its strengths and weaknesses. But Malaysia has something different. The people's unity is their formula number one...", he added.

-- BERNAMA

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