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Take positive view of criticisms, says Musa Hitam

CRITICISMS voiced at the Umno general assembly should not be regarded as attempts to split the party, former deputy president Tan Sri Musa Hitam said.

He said such views should be accepted as positive response from the delegates on the need to check abuses within the party, especially in view of the country's current economic situation.

"Voicing criticism is a healthy exercise in a democratic party like Umno," he said when asked to comment on the opening speech by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad which touched on cronyism and nepotism.

Musa also urged Umno members to heed Dr Mahathir's advice to beware of "outside elements" trying to create dissension among them.

He, however, expressed confidence that Umno members would continue to support Dr Mahathir's leadership.

Bernamea reported that former Umno deputy president and Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba said it had long been known that foreign powers would like to see a leadership change in Malaysia.

"Colonial powers are dissatisfied that their former colonies are now more advanced than they. They are envious of our success and are not fully sincere in helping us," he said.

Former secretary-general Tan Sri Mustafa Jabar said Umno members should not let the country's current economic problems affect party unity.

"We should not get carried away with the discussion of issues which could lead to a split within the party," he said.

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