

19 JUN 1998

Umno-Motion (Address)

UMNO MEMBERS "TO LOOK AFTER" ANWAR FOR DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today given an assurance that it is safe for him to travel abroad as party members will "look after" his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, when he is away.

Terengganu delegate Datuk Abdul Rashid Ngah said that the Prime Minister should not worry about having to leave the country because Umno is a very strong and united party, from the top leadership to the grassroot level.

"The Datuk Seri President need not worry...proceed on your overseas trips," he said.

"In his briefing (to delegates) recently, he stated that he is worried about having to go on trips anymore.... I am sorry to be divulging what transpired at the briefing, but it is now public knowledge," he said when proposing a motion of thanks for Dr Mahathir's address at the opening of the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

"Leave it to the deputy president to run the party and leave it to Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, other Supreme Council members, to me and other party members to look after the deputy president," he said.

"God Willing, our people are everywhere...in Kuala Nerus, in Pulai and in Cheruk To'kun (in Anwar's constituency)," he said.

Earlier, Abdul Rashid pledged full support for measures taken by the party and the government to deal with the economic and financial crisis, which could have a negative effect on the people, and to restore confidence in the nation's economy.

The support was based on the realisation that efforts to overcome the problem required the patience and sacrifices through thorough planning, taking into account the interest of the people, he said.

Abdul Rashid said that success could not be achieved without political stability, patriotism and consensus to face external and internal threats that could affect the structure of the administration and create tension and social unrest.

He said that personal interest and keenness for short-term gains should be discarded and instead honesty, self-confidence, integrity and determination to uphold the party's struggles to ensure the survival of the race and nation should be inculcated.

Seconding the motion, Johor delegate Ahmad Masian said that all Umno members especially the Umno Youth and Wanita Umno should join forces and support the leadership to further strengthen the party and the administration to deal with the economic problem.

"Now is the time for the people and the party machinery to jointly shoulder the responsibility to save the country from the negative effects of the economic crisis," he said.

In this respect, he proposed that each of the 17,645 Umno branches produce at least a scholar and an entrepreneur each year to rebuild the resilience and strength of the race.

He said that this would produce at least 17,645 Malay scholars and 17,645 Malay entrepreneurs each year.

"From the one village one product programme mooted by the president, we could also begin to set up a factory and develop a Malay millionaire from each division each year," he said.

Ahmad said that the proposal was aimed at ensuring that success and

prosperity would not be confined in one place.

"Those able to go to university and succeed to become businessmen should come more from the rural areas and not be imbalanced, only in the towns," he said.

-- BERNAMA
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