

18 JUN 1998

Wanita-Debate

WANITA UMNO MEMBERS VALUE DR MAHATHIR'S COURAGE, ZEAL

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Perak delegate Abashah Othman echoing the feelings of several delegates expressed appreciation for the courage and zeal shown by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in handling the country's economic problems.

"He has opted for his own mould to contain the problem instead of going hat in hand to the International Monetary Fund," she said to loud applause from the delegates to the Wanita Umno General Assembly here

Selangor delegate Norhayati Datuk Onn attributed the economic slowdown to exploitation by forces jealous of the country's progress in various fields.

Delegate from Pulau Pinang Jumma Bee Mohamad said the current economic downturn was a test of Malaysians' unity as a nation.

Perlis delegate Rahmah Haji Ali proposed that the Wanita Movement set up a Business Training Institute especially for women.

Negeri Sembilan delegate Hajah Rohani Yaakub wanted more members from the movement to be represented at future Umno General assemblies.

The selection of 30 delegates from the movement to the Umno General Assembly tomorrow was not proportionate to the women present at the movement's own assembly today, she said. "We are disappointed that many present in the hall will not have the opportunity to be present at the parent party's assembly tomorrow," she said.

Several Wanita delegates also called for greater women's participation at all levels of the government machinery.

The number should be at least 30 per cent, they added.

Melaka delegate Rabiah Ali stressed the need to give the agriculture and food sector more attention to cushion the effect of the slowdown.

"The economic slowdown has shown that it is no longer cheap to import foodstuffs," she said.

She also appealed to the people to be thrifty and not spend their money lavishly.

Rabiah also urged Malaysians to save their money in their own country and not overseas.

-- BERNAMA

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