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Delegate proposes 'father' title for Dr M

A DELEGATE has proposed that Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad be accorded the "Father of Malaysia's Economic Independence" title for his success in steering the country out of the economic problems.

Nawawi Ahmad of Jasin, representing the Malacca Umno, said the success of his firm economic policies was an inspiration not only for Malaysians but also others in neighbouring countries.

"We were surprised that people in Thailand who were against the measures introduced by the International Monetary Fund, supported Dr Mahathir's economic reforms.

"Although they are from a different country, they showed their support by holding banners saying they love Dr Mahathir," he said.

Nawawi also spoke of the actions of some Malaysians who took to the streets to show their displeasure against the judiciary and the Government and labelled such groups as proponents of "street anarchy".

"These are the people who can ruin the economy for which the Government has worked so hard to revive after it was attacked by currency speculators," he added.

Nawawi also urged Umno members not to be complacent with the success in the recent Sabah State election but to work harder to ensure a resounding victory for the Barisan Nasional in the coming general election.

He proposed that members should not be too involved in politicking at the branch and divisional levels and those who lost in party elections should accept defeat.

"We are strong if we are united. If we are united, we can defeat Pas in the general election and even win more than the two-thirds majority."

He said that Umno members should not wait for instructions from top party leaders to fight the threat from the Opposition but should act immediately.

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