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Umno-Speech (Reaction)

UMNO DELEGATES WELCOME DR MAHATHIR'S STRAIGHT TALK

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Party members today welcomed Umno president Umno Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's policy speech which they regarded as having answered all the lies hurled by the opposition against him, Umno and the government.

They said Malaysians should ponder over all the matters raised by Dr Mahathir if they wanted the peace and national development to continue.

Senator Rosli Mat Hassan said the prime minister's speech at the Umno general assembly, here, was packed with explanations on all the actions taken by the government in tackling the various political and economic problems.

Through the speech, the people could assess the sincerity of the leaders, especially the Umno leaders, in ensuring the country's prosperity and that Malaysia got out of the economic doldrums without depending on foreign aid, especially from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Rosli, who is also secretary-general of the Malaysian Bumiputera Contractors' Association, said the people must think seriously about the speech, especially in facing the next general election.

"The people should not end up picking the wrong government because of their emotions as there is no other government in the world capable of achieving what the Barisan Nasional (BN) government has, especially in maintaining racial unity and equitable distribution of wealth," he said.

The delegate from Kedah, Ismail Tayib, said the prime minister's speech showed the government's seriousness in looking after the people's interests and saving the country from economic colonisation by the western economies.

As such, Malaysians, especially those who took a negative view of the government's efforts to revive the economy, must re-think their stand and support all the government's efforts, he said.

Asmin Nasir of Sabah said the recent state election showed that Umno and the BN were still relevant in continuing the development agenda of the state and country.

He said Dr Mahathir's speech was a reminder to the people not to make the wrong choice in the next general election because no other government could match the BN as was evident from Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS)'s failure in ruling Sabah.

Malaysia Airlines (MAS) chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli said the prime minister's speech touched a "raw nerve" and he was glad that this reminder to Malaysians came at the right time.

"As a citizen of Malaysia, I feel the speech was very inspiring as it touched on the country's independence, the people's livelihood and not merely on economic matters," he said.

He agreed on the subject of efforts to recolonise the country through economical means as it had happened 500 years ago with the fall of Melaka.

"Now recolonisation is coming back in the form of globalisation due to our complacency and after 42 years of independence, we can't let it happen just like that," he added.

Executive chairman of Rashid Hussain Bhd described the speech as a "very logical one".

-- BERNAMA

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