

# ***Backing for Dr M's war on money politics***

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno leaders have given their full support to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wish to rid the party of money politics.

Leaders interviewed yesterday agreed with the actions taken against those who dabbled in money politics.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said Dr Mahathir's briefing to Umno delegates yesterday was to further strengthen the party and the need to curb money politics.

He said that if leaders continued to practise money politics it would surely ruin the party in the long run.

Another vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the president's speech centred on

strengthening the party to face the 2004 general election.

He said Dr Mahathir wanted party members to thwart moves by the opposition parties and to regain seats which the Barisan Nasional had lost to the opposition.

Vice-president Tan Sri Muhiyuddin Yassin said the president spoke about the image of the party and ways for Umno to regain the respect of the Malays.

He also said Dr Mahathir's speech touched on many issues including the need to strengthen the party from within and facing external pressure.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said she agreed with Dr Mahathir that there was a trend of Umno members not being supportive of the party.