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Umno-Politics (Round-up)

POLICY SPEECH AND PUTERI UMNO ENDORSEMENT ATTRACT ATTENTION

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech with the theme "Exposing The Exposed" and the amendments to the party constitution to endorse Puteri Umno as a new entity of the party stole the limelight at the Umno General Assembly today.

The 28-page speech by Dr Mahathir touched, among other things, on the position of the Malays which was still not secure, Malay disunity, Islamic country, the ala PAS Hudud Law, the effects of family break-ups and terrorism.

The Prime Minister exposed the Malay weaknesses one by one that led to their failure despite various assistance and programmes provided specially for them.

They included the culture of the Malays who were generally Muslims but did not practise the real teachings of Islam although looking from the aspects of clothings and behaviour, the Malays now appeared more Islamic and religious than before.

The attitude of the Malays, he said, such as laziness and opting for the easy way out regardless of the outcome had led to their failure after they were given many chances and assistance in the form of facilities as well as cash.

Puteri Umno, which was formed on Aug 3 last year, was endorsed as a new entity of Umno when the Umno Special General Assembly unanimously passed the seven amendments to the party's constitution.

With the endorsement, it now has an organisation and is administered just like the Wanita Umno and Umno Youth movements at all levels from the branch, division, state and central level.

Membership of Puteri Umno is open to Malay women between the ages of 18 and 35 and up to 40 years for the post of the movement's head. There are about 35,000 members in Puteri Umno now.

The issue over the 10 per cent additional places for non-Bumiputeras in the Mara Junior Science Colleges (MRSM) and Matriculation Centres which was expected to dominate the debate, did not attract the delegates' attention.

It was vastly different from the Umno Youth and Wanita General Assembly and Puteri Umno Convention yesterday where the issue over education dominated the debates.

-- BERNAMA

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