

25 JUN 2003

Siti Hasmah-Relief

DR SITI HASMAH FEELS RELIEVED NO "SHOCKS" AT UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PUTRAJAYA, June 25 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali today heaved a sigh of relief that the 54th Umno General Assembly went off smoothly without any incidents

She was happy that there were no surprise motions at the assembly and also over the Prime Minister's ability to control his emotions and being able to deliver his last speech as Umno President calmly and so well.

"I did not expect him to control his feelings so well. I am happy that the assembly ended as expected," she told reporters at Seri Perdana after hosting a reception for the one millionth visitor to the Prime Minister's official residence.

Dr Siti Hasmah had earlier expressed alarm over the possibility of a motion being moved to persuade Dr Mahathir to change his mind and stay on as Prime Minister and Umno President after October.

The Prime Minister announced his decision to resign from all his government and party posts at the Umno General Assembly last year, sending shock waves across the country and the region.

After being persuaded by senior Umno leaders, the Prime Minister agreed to postpone his retirement to October this year.

Dr Siti Hasmah said the Prime Minister did not tell her earlier about his intention to step down but fully supported his decision to retire as she felt the time had come for him to do so.

Dr Siti Hasmah said she would treasure the many fond memories particularly her meetings with so many people.

"Of course I will miss meeting people. But I will continue to meet people although much less than I do formally. I will still be around," she added.

-- BERNAMA
SHI MAM AAM