

22 AUG 2003

Gerakan-Declaration

GERAKAN YOUTH, WANITA PASS DECLARATION IN APPRECIATION OF PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) - The Gerakan Youth Delegates Conference today unanimously passed a declaration in appreciation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership and contributions to the country.

The conference also passed a declaration of support and confidence in Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, as the incoming Prime Minister.

Gerakan Youth chief Mah Siew Keong said the delegates also pledged their commitment to the principles of the Rukun Negara, Vision 2020 and the concept of the Malaysian race.

"We also agree on continued emphasis on political and not racial struggles to strengthen social unity through the spirit of understanding, tolerance and goodwill," he told reporters at the end of the conference, attended by 490 delegates.

Other points in the declaration included the rejection of extremist racial and religious dogma, support for the Government's economic stimulus policy, commitment towards a transparent administration and acceptance of Bahasa Malaysia as the national language, he said.

Mah said the conference also accepted the Gerakan Youth Action Programme 2003 which, among others, urged that the Sons of Malaysia project be implemented.

The programme urged the Government to continue the system of meritocracy in university intakes but to standardise the intakes according to a single standard.

The delegates also asked the Defence Ministry to give detailed briefings on the action plan and implementation schedule of the National Service programme to avoid confusion, he said.

Meanwhile, the 16th Gerakan Wanita Conference also passed five motions, including appreciation of Dr Mahathir and support of Abdullah, issues pertaining to the Rukun Negara, women's rights, National Service and education.

-- BERNAMA

AT HM EMK SRI