

VOTES CAST IN STAR 25 APR 1987 A CALM HALL

VOTING for the top posts was the sole order of business on the first day of the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Assembly permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Nizam Shah announced in the afternoon, after the ballots had been cast, that debate on the various resolutions would only begin today and not yesterday afternoon.

"The party president is giving dinner at *Sri Perdana* so you can all go there. I, however, will have to remain here to announce the results, which are expected at about 10pm. I hope someone will bring back a packet of food for me," he said to the laughter of the delegates.

The voting began about an hour after Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had finished delivering his presidential address. He took about 45 minutes to read through his 20-page speech from 9am.

The atmosphere during the casting of ballots was calm.

Delegates were called to cast their ballots row by row instead of division by division as was the

practice previously.

At 12.20pm, Tan Sri Sulaiman announced that the casting of ballots would be adjourned for Friday prayers. At that time, about three-quarters of the 1,479 delegates — including the supreme council members — had cast their ballots.

Dr Mahathir had led the supreme council members in casting their ballots.

Voting resumed at about 3.15pm and ended at about 4.15pm.

The 45 ballot boxes were then carried to *Dewan Tun Hussein* for counting.

Delegates had begun arriving at the party headquarters complex as early as 7am. Among them were Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba. By 8.30am, all the delegates had taken their seats in the hall.

Dr Mahathir arrived at 8.45am and started his speech at 9am after the party's annual report and accounts were presented to the delegates by party secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and treasurer Daim Zainuddin, respectively.

