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LEAD-Zahid-Youth
COUNCILS REPLACE BUREAUS IN UMNO YOUTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The Umno Youth Movement has set up 22 councils to replace the bureaus which have existed all this while in the movement's administrative system.

Its new head Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today the setting up of the councils was part of efforts to involve youth leaders in the decision-making process and train them to become community leaders.

To ensure continuation of the party's agenda, international affairs, information, economy, sports, training, religion, education, youths and student affairs would continue to get the movement's attention, he told reporters after chairing the first meeting of its executive committee at the party headquarters here.

He said Umno Youth would give its earnest attention to the social field, entrepreneur development, consumer affairs, public housing, services for squatters as well as urban and rural development.

"Areas covering science, technology, the environment, national unity, culture and the arts are also priority items in our agenda, for Umno Youth wants to see a new generation of Malays who are sensitive to the needs of their children's future," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said the meeting also agreed to the setting up of a Putra Brigade Council which would become an avenue to mould the younger generation into strong leaders upholding the aspirations and spirit of the Umno struggle.

"The council's target group will be school leavers whom we want to bring closer to the party's struggle," he said.

The meeting also appointed several office-bearers -- Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (Assistant Secretary), Mokhzani Mahathir (Assistant Treasurer), Datuk Fatah Iskandar (Information Chief) and Radin Mokhtar Yusof (Executive Secretary).

Five additional members were also named to the Youth committee -- Nordin Md Noor (Pulau Pinang), Jamal Nasir Rasdi (Perak), Dr Abdul Rahim Md Ghouse (Pulau Pinang), Abdul Rahin Datuk Haji Mohd Said (Terengganu) and Abdul Kadir Daud (Melaka).

Ahmad Zahid said their appointment had the blessings of party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad whom he consulted before today's meeting.

He hoped the chairmen of each council would run the council within the scope of duties agreed to so that the objective of reforming the movement would be realised.

Asked about the appointment of state youth chiefs, he said their appointments would be made after Dr Mahathir had appointed the chairmen for the various State Liaison Committees.

Ahmad Zahid on behalf of the new committee expressed thanks to former Youth head Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik and the former committee for its contributions to the movement.

"Umno Youth will strive to continue the programmes initiated by Tan Sri Abdul Rahim such as the East Asia Business Council, Convention to Champion Malay interests, and the Commonwealth of Islamic Nations," he said.

The new councils and their chairmen:

International Affairs Council Datuk Hishamuddin Tun Hussein
Information Services Council: Datuk Fatah Iskandar

Religious Affairs Council: Ruslan Kassim
Education Council: Mohd Khaled Nordin
Sports Council: Jema Khan Datuk Majid
Consumer Affairs Council: Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzil
Social Action Council: Soohaimi A. Rahman
Public Housing Council: Mohamamad Supardi Mohd Nor
Rural Development Council: Abdul Fatah Abdullah
Training Management Council: Abdul Wahab Din
Environment Action Council: Azizan Yaakob
Squatters Services Council: Abdul Azim Mohd Zabidi
Science and Technology Council: Zein Isma Ismail
National Unity and Integration Council: Zulkifli Mohd Alwi
Students Council: Zaiyadi Awang Noh
Urban Development Council: Nur Jazlan Mohamed
Culture and Arts Council: Samlih Juaisin
Entrepreneur Development Council: Nordin Md Noor
Manpower Affairs Council: Jamal Nasir Rasdi
Economic Affairs Council: Dr Abdul Rahim Md Ghouse
Youth Development Council: Abdul Rahin Datuk Haji Mohd Said, dan,
Putra Brigade Council: Abdul Kadir Daud.

--BERNAMA

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