

11 MAR 1997  
Youth-Social  
BN YOUTH TO DISCUSS SOCIAL ILLS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 11 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth will hold a national seminar on April 20 to discuss the social problems affecting the youth, especially students.

BN Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the decision to hold the inaugural seminar was reached at the movement's meeting here today attended by senior Youth leaders from 14 BN component parties.

The meeting, among others, decided to establish a permanent secretariat for the BN Youth to coordinate its activities besides reaching a consensus on current issues, he told reporters after chairing the meeting.

He said the meeting discussed the social ills faced by the different communities which should be curbed before they became more serious.

Ahmad Zahid said that previously Umno youth had focused on social problems affecting the Malay youth but now the BN Youth which represented other communities like the Chinese and Indians had voiced their concern over moral decadence of the youth nationwide.

He said the BN Youth expressed fears over the gangsterism problem affecting Chinese teenagers as well as vandalism among the Indian youngsters.

He said there was also concern that gangsterism had crept in among Indian youths.

The BN Youth members from Sabah and Sarawak had also expressed their concern over moral decadence among students like teacher bashing.

He said they supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's stand that there should be uniformity in taking action to deal with the problem.

"If there are problems, they should not be further complicated but should be resolved with follow-up action," he said.

He said that since Umno Youth had the Putra brigade, the other BN Youth wings wanted an integrated programme to institute discipline against those involved.

He also said that Umno Youth National Integration and Unity Bureau chairman Zulkifli Alwi was appointed secretary of the BN Youth permanent secretariat while Umno Youth assistant secretary Saifuddin Nasution Ismail was appointed the secretariat chairman.

The permanent secretariat comprising all the BN Youth secretaries would hold monthly meetings to draw up programmes or follow-up action on any issue apart from resolving any differences in opinions.

Ahmad Zahid said the meeting also agreed that the BN Youth forge cooperation with the youth wings of ruling parties from Asean nations. Efforts were being made to establish cooperation with the youth wing of the ruling party in the Philippines.

The meeting also agreed to hold the BN Youth convention in Sarawak on July 6 and the BN Youth assembly in Melaka on Sept 16. -- BERNAMA