

06 SEP 1997

Umno-Najib

UMNO CLUBS ABROAD ASKED TO EXTEND THEIR ACTIVITIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Overseas Umno clubs were today asked to extend their activities to non-Umno members to expand the party's struggle among the Malays.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he also asked the club presidents to streamline the administration of their clubs.

He said this when asked to comment on his meeting with leaders of overseas Umno clubs, here. Thirty overseas Umno club members had been invited to the Umno general assembly which was opened by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Najib said he also explained to them the education reforms in the country and the policy to turn Malaysia into a centre of educational excellence.

Asked whether the Malay language could be made an international language as suggested by a delegate during the debate on religion and education, he said: "That is for the long term".

"At this stage the government wants to build the race and to do so we need to acquire knowledge to master technology and build a successful civilisation," he said.

When a successful civilisation had been built there would be no need to ask people to learn the Malay language, he added.

Meanwhile, Umno Youth leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, in his meeting with the Umno club representatives, asked them to help portray the outstanding role of Umno to the communities abroad.

"We know that the opposition uses the Internet to give a bad picture of Umno," he said.

He also asked them to be not only student leaders but also leaders at the universities they were studying in.

"Show the world that we Malaysians and Malays can become leaders as shown by the prime minister who is known and admired worldwide," he said.

Ahmad Zahid also gave an assurance that leaders of overseas Umno clubs would be asked to serve as members of the 22 councils set up under Umno Youth upon their return after completing their studies.

The meeting, which was also attended Umno Youth executive committee members also answered several questions posed by the representatives of the Umno clubs in Jordan, Melbourne (Australia), Pakistan, Auckland (New Zealand), Bandung and Surabaya (Indonesia).

-- BERNAMA

NZ RON Jk