

Johor wants Hishammuddin to take charge

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JOHOR BARU: Johor Umno Youth wants deputy Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein to assume the duties of the movement's head to prevent a leadership vacuum from forming.

Its information chief Mohd Abdul Latif Endut said the state had pledged its full support for Hishammuddin to take over while awaiting a final decision on the status of current chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"There is obviously a vacuum in the movement now in terms of leadership and it is imperative that the deputy take over the responsibilities of the leadership.

"For the sake of the movement, Datuk Hishammuddin has to take the responsibility," he said yesterday.

Commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call on Zahid to resign instead of waiting for the supreme council to decide on his

case, Latif said the movement's image had been tarnished and urgent work was needed to repair this.

"What he does not realise is that by resigning, he will gain more respect," Latif said, adding that Zahid had gone against Clause 8.2 of the movement's constitution by not supporting the supreme council's decision.

In Seremban, state Umno liaison chief Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said Zahid was trying to fish for sympathy by refusing to resign from his post and waiting to be expelled by the supreme council instead.

"By doing so, Zahid wants to create an image that the supreme council has a habit of sacking people," he said after a dialogue with Rukun Tetangga members yesterday.

"Zahid must behave like a gentleman and state his stand clearly on the matter," he added.

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