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BN-Rally

BN YOUTH TO HOLD RALLY TO EXPLAIN ITS STAND ON REFORM MOVEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth will hold a public rally to explain its reasons for rejecting the reform movement initiated by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Its deputy chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said about 100,000 youths from BN component parties are expected to attend the rally.

The place and time of the rally would be announced after a police permit had been obtained, Hishammuddin, who is also Umno Youth Deputy Head, told a news conference after a meeting with youth leaders of BN component parties here today.

Earlier, he chaired a special meeting of the Umno Youth executive committee.

Hishammuddin said the BN Youth would mobilise its machinery at the grassroot level to explain to party members the reasons for Anwar's expulsion from the government and Umno.

He said the rally would prove that only a fraction of the youth members were involved in the reform movement while the vast majority supported the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Hishammuddin said the BN Youth opposed the movement as it was prejudicial to national security and had given room for the foreign media to distort information and portray a negative picture on the actual situation.

He also warned outsiders not to interfere in Malaysia's internal affairs.

"This warning is issued specially to Australian Prime Minister John Howard who does not understand the background of the issue and use it for his own political interests back home," said Hishammuddin, who is Deputy Primary Industries Minister.

It was reported that Howard had upset Malaysia over his statements on Monday that there was an apparent drift "towards an authoritarian approach" in Malaysia.

Hishammuddin said the BN and Umno Youth movements also called on the government to take stern action against foreigners involved in the reform movement.

-- BERNAMA

RV/NHD TS