

19 MAY 1998

Youth-Contest

UMNO YOUTH REAFFIRMS NO CONTEST STAND FOR ZAHID, HISHAMMUDDIN

SEREMBAN, May 19 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth today reiterated its stand that there should be no contest for its chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and his deputy Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein in the party elections next year.

Its assistant secretary Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the stand was in line with the decision taken at the movement's executive council meeting last month.

" However, this does not mean we are stopping any challenge for the top two posts," he told a media conference after the exco meeting chaired by Zahid.

He also reaffirmed the movement's undivided support for Zahid and Hishammuddin.

The movement had decided in its April 29 meeting that they should be no contest for the two posts to enhance the strength and unity among party members.

However, Zahid said on May 2 that he was open to challenge if members of the movement wanted to test his popularity.

Zahid told reporters later that the movement's stand must be respected.

" I and Datuk Hishammuddin are of the view that contests must be allowed to show democracy is alive in the movement. There is no question of us not reviving democracy," he said.

He also said several decisions were made in the meeting including organising a congress on enhancing Malaysia's economy in collaboration with the National Malay Chamber of Commerce on June 7.

Twenty strategies and proposals would be tabled at the congress to enhance the country's economy to tide over the economic downturn, he said.

Zahid also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would launch the Special National Fund carnival at Merdeka Square on June 14.

The carnival is jointly organised by Umno Youth and the Barisan Nasional Youth, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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