

09 OCT 1998

Umno-chiefs

UMNO YOUTH NAMES TWO NEW STATE CHIEFS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- The Umno Youth today appointed the movement's two new state chiefs namely Mohd Ismail Mohd Othman for Pulau Pinang and Shahrul Akram Othman for Negeri Sembilan, promoting them each from the post of state deputy leader.

Umno Youth acting chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein announced their appointments in a statement here.

"I hope Umno Youth leaders and members in the states concerned will respect and accept this decision and extend support and cooperation to them both," he said.

Mohd Ismail replaced Dr Rahim Ghouse and Shahrul Akram took over from Ruslan Kassim who is currently detained under the Internal Security since Sept 21 for involvement in activities prejudicial to national security.

Last Tuesday the Umno Supreme Council sacked Rahim and Ruslan as well as eight others for anti-Umno activities.

The council also asked 18 others, including Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi to show cause why they cannot be expelled from the party.

Rahim is now believed to be in Manila.

The Malaysian embassy there had confirmed that Rahim was among a handful of Malaysians now reportedly mounting a smear campaign against the government from the Philippine capital.

In the statement Hishammuddin also announced the following appointments for Pulau Pinang Umno Youth;

+ Roslan Saidin, formerly treasurer, as the movement's new state deputy chief;

+ Liakat Ali Mohamed Ali as the new treasurer;

For Negeri Sembilan:

+ Shaziman Abu Mansur, formerly information chief, as state deputy chief;

+ Ismail Lazim, formerly treasurer, as the new information chief; and

+ Hashim Rusdi as treasurer.

Hishammuddin said he would name soon the deputy Umno Youth chief for Kelantan following the expulsion of Dr Wan Hasni Wan Sulaiman by the Supreme Council last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Hishammuddin said he had written to Cable News Network expressing concern over CNN's "erroneous coverage of Malaysia."

He said CNN had deliberately "distorted the truth" in its report last Monday that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's injuries while under police custody were self-inflicted.

Anwar, who was sacked from the government on Sept 2 and from Umno the next day, was detained under the ISA on Sept 20 following illegal assemblies and disturbances here.

Hishammuddin said CNN had stated that Dr Mahathir initially suggested that Anwar's injuries were self-inflicted but had, later, due to global condemnation, ordered for an independent investigations into allegations of police mistreatment of Anwar.

"This is a deliberate distortion truth," said Hishammuddin.

In his televised press conference, the prime minister said if the allegations of police brutality were true, he condemned police brutality,

said Hishammuddin.

"Moreover he ordered an immediate investigation into the allegations and gave assurances that the perpetrators would be punished," said Hishammuddin.

Dr Mahathir only mentioned about the probability of self-injuries when replying to a question from a journalist towards the end of the interview, said Hishammuddin.

"Umno Youth is deeply saddened by the distorted and fallacious reporting from an international TV network.

"We feel that such deliberate and pernicious coverage is unworthy of an international organisation like CNN that purported to be both professional and hold high standards," Hishammuddin added.

-- BERNAMA

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