

27 SEP 1998

Youth-Rally

UMNO YOUTH TO SEND 50,000 MEMBERS TO RALLY SUPPORTING MAHATHIR

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth members will make up about half of the 100,000 people expected to attend the "Premier Rally" to be held by Barisan National Youth at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here on Oct 10.

Umno Youth vice chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said today the gathering would prove that his movement and the youth wings of other BN component parties were solidly behind the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It would also show that the BN youth wings were not supporting the reform movement initiated by the former deputy prime minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he told reporters after a briefing session for Johor Umno Youth here.

Anwar was removed from the Cabinet and Umno early this month and is currently detained under the Internal Security Act for his involvement in activities threatening national security.

"We will prove to the world that the majority of the youth members do not support the reform movement and only a handful were supporting it," he said.

Hishammuddin, who is also Deputy Primary Industries Minister, said Umno Youth would send about 50,000 representatives and MCA Youth about 20,000 members. The rest would be made up of other BN component parties.

At the rally, the youth members will be given a briefing on the latest developments including the political scene in the country. The gathering would also help to cement the spirit of cooperation and friendship between BN youth wings, said Hishammuddin.

The Umno Youth leader also said that there should not be any outside interference in the administration of this country.

Expressing surprise over accusations by the United States that Malaysia's leadership gave low priority to individual freedom and human rights, Hishammuddin said Washington need not teach Malaysia about morality.

"The social values they practise such as gay rights as part of human rights, will surely not be accepted by the Malaysian populace," he said.

Hishammuddin also welcomed the the Indonesian government's rejection of Anwar's reform movement.

-- BERNAMA

BH GM SK