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Youth-Economy

UMNO YOUTH, ABIM TO EMBARK ON FOOD PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

TEMERLOH, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Some 708,000 Umno Youth members will be galvanised into action to help boost the country's food production in light of the current economic slowdown.

The movement's rural development council chairman Abdul Fatah Abdullah said under the programme, to be launched end of this month, members would plant vegetables in their home compound and rear fish in ponds or cages.

The movement would seek the cooperation of government agencies like the Agriculture Department and Fisheries Department to implement the programme, he told reporters here today.

He said 50 units of hydroponic equipment would be distributed to the state Umno Youth wings, which would be asked to keep detailed records of their activities under the programme.

In KUALA LUMPUR, the Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (Abim) said it was preparing a memorandum on the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in light of the country's economic turmoil.

Its president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman said the memorandum, to be called "The People's Economic Programme", would be fine-tuned by several NGOs before it is presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

" We will convince the people on the need to unite and assume that we are facing an emergency situation," he told reporters after attending a dialogue on the current economic situation organised by the movement.

He said the memorandum would stress on expunging western-orientated culture from the people's mind and instead, encourage them to buy Made-In-Malaysia products.

The movement would urge the government to revive the agriculture sector to generate interest among the people to venture into the sector.

Lauding the government's stand in not seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF) funding, he urged the government to ensure that its efforts to turn the economy around did not jeopardise the New Economic Policy. --

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