

21/06/1998

Youth movement consistent in its stand, says Zahid

UMNO Youth is consistent in its stand for the party to rid itself of cronyism and nepotism, Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said yesterday.

He said the call was necessary as there were still "loose ends" in Umno's policy on such matters.

"We are analysing the matter as voiced by two Youth representatives who debated on the presidential speech and the motion on the economy."

On party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that any attempt by Zahid to use his (Dr Mahathir's) son Mokhzani as a "bridge" to him (Dr Mahathir) could lead to it being misintepreted as a form of nepotism, the Youth chief said there was nothing he could do about it.

When asked about rumours of his connection with Mokhzani, who is the movement's treasurer, Zahid said it was difficult to stop the rumour-mongering.

He said Umno Youth had always preferred to have an informal link with the president as it would made interaction within the party much easier.

He also defended himself against the accusations by Kelantan deputy Umno liaison chief Datuk Annuar Musa that he had made criticisms not based on evidence, but to gain popularity.

He said Umno Youth had a secretariat to study not only motions by the movement's speakers or feedbacks to the motions, but also matters to be brought to the attention of the party.

Zahid added professionals were also invited to sit in the secretariat to ensure that motions were drawn up after scrutiny.

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