

28/09/1998

Youth to organise big gathering

JOHOR BARU, Sun. - Umno Youth will organise a 100,000-strong youth gathering at the Bukit Jalil stadium on October 10 to show their support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Its deputy chairman Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the show of strength would subsequently serve as a means to address the unfair criticisms launched against the country recently by the foreign media and leaders.

Hishammuddin, speaking to reporters after holding Umno Youth's first nationwide briefing for State Umno Youth leaders here today, said the Bukit Jalil meeting was also to combat the so-called reformation movement campaign by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's supporters.

"The gathering, to be attended by Dr Mahathir and senior Barisan Nasional leaders, will prove once and for all to the people that the youths in this country are not swayed by Anwar's campaign.

"A total of 50,000 Umno Youth members, 20,000 youth members from MCA, 10,000 from MIC, 10,000 from Gerakan, 10,000 from PPP and representatives from component parties in Sabah and Sarawak are expected to gather at Bukit Jalil on October 10."

Hishammuddin said Umno Youth which was unhappy with the recent news coverages by the foreign media, in particular that of Singapore on the country's present situation, had learned from past experiences that it was useless to be at loggerheads with these parties.

"The best course of action for us now is to correct the situation within the country by clarifying matters with the party's grassroots, wipe out the influence of Anwar's so-called reformation movement and prove to foreigners that Malaysians, including the youth, are united behind Dr Mahathir's leadership.

"To start off our action against the foreign media and leaders, particularly that of the United States and Britain, Umno Youth International Affairs Council has issued a statement on its stand on the matter."

In the statement, Hishammuddin, who is the council's chairman, said Malaysians stood by Dr Mahathir's recent statement that Malaysia would not 'crawl, kneel and bend to kiss the feet of foreigners to save its economy'.

"Malaysia also does not want foreign parties to interfere in the country's administration. To support this, we wish to point out that in a recent survey by Time.com Asia, it was shown that 61.23 per cent of 5,899 people interviewed believed Anwar should be arrested for endangering the country's security.

"We also like to point out that Australian Prime Minister John Howard's recent comments against the Malaysian Government are unfounded and an attempt by him to divert attention from his own problems."

(END)