

12 NOV 1999

Hishammuddin-Candidates

BN COMPONENT PARTIES ASKED TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FROM THE YOUTH WING

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- The top leaders of the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties have been asked to field representatives from their respective Youth wings as candidates in the coming general election.

BN Youth chairman, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said that this was only a suggestion and not any kind of pressure.

"In line with the tradition in past elections, the BN component parties will also field their Youth wings' representative as candidates," he told reporters after chairing a special Umno Youth and BN Youth meeting, here, today.

Hishammuddin, who is acting Umno Youth head, said that he had submitted to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad the names of Umno Youth representatives proposed to be fielded in the 10th general election.

He said that Umno Youth had proposed that incumbents who had served well in their respective parliamentary and state constituencies be retained.

"The list also has several new faces nominated to contest for the first time. They have been proposed to be fielded in new constituencies where Umno Youth representatives have not contested," he said.

Asked to comment on PAS Youth head Mahfuz Omar's willingness to have a debate with the BN Youth, Hishammuddin said that they would not engage in a debate with Mahfuz if the debate was between the BN Youth and PAS Youth.

"The BN Youth will only agree to a debate on the direction of the struggles of the Barisan Alternatif. The debate must be attended by all representatives of the Youth wings of PAS, Keadilan, DAP and PRM," he said.

On today's meeting, Hishammuddin said that he had reminded Umno and BN Youth representatives to place emphasis on discipline during the election campaign.

"They have been reminded not to be like the Youth of the opposition parties, resorting to incitement and defamation in their campaigns," he said.

-- BERNAMA

NY RM