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New trustees prepared to face legal action

MALACCA, Fri. - Umno Youth acting chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein today said he and the rest of Yayasan Gerak Bakti Kebangsaan's newly-appointed trustees were prepared to face legal action by quarters unhappy with their appointment.

Hishammuddin, appointed the foundation's chairman during its extraordinary general meeting on Wednesday, said there was no stopping the new trustees from discharging their duties to help the Malays.

Other trustees are the movement's treasurer Mokhzani Mahathir, former Umno Youth Information chief Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar, management and disciplinary committee chairman Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir and secretary Zulkifli Alwi who is also national Barisan Nasional Youth secretary.

The meeting also endorsed the removal of sacked Umno Youth assistant secretary Saifuddin Nasution Ismail. Saifuddin had refused to resign although he was expelled from Umno by the supreme council.

The board also instituted legal action against Saiful Izham Ramli who had passed himself off as the foundation's secretary.

Hishammuddin said: "We do not care if they want to drag us to court.

"If they have the guts and they think they are right, I challenge them to do so," he said after the closing of two-day motivational talks for Johor Umno division leaders by its chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, who is also Menteri Besar, last night.

All aspects of the foundation's management and financial situation would be reviewed before programmes to help the poor Malays were drawn up, he said. With their appointment could now function on its own.

The movement set up the foundation in 1983 to help Malays and bring the community into the mainstream.

Two other board members, former Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Johari Abdul resigned on April 7.

Saifuddin and Johari are supreme council members of Parti Keadilan Nasional.

Hishammuddin said he was prepared to debate with Opposition leaders on the country's current economic and political situation but through a proper forum.

"But the debate or forum must not be chaired by biased or one-sided chairperson."

Hishammuddin said he was supposed to appear on the ntv7 Dateline with two Opposition leaders a month ago but for some reasons the debate did not take off.

"I am prepared (to face them) if I am invited. I am more than willing to meet them so that all Malaysians will come to know about the truth."

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