

PM to head panel on youth bodies

A special Cabinet committee is to be established to oversee youth organisations and help initiate more activities for them.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will head the committee which will have representatives from the Youth and Sports Ministry and other relevant ministries, government agencies and youth clubs.

The welfare of youth movements will be addressed by this special committee which will also pave the way for a more integrated and efficient approach to activities, Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said.

Announcing this in his winding-up speech on behalf of the Youth wing at the assembly yesterday, Hishammuddin, the Youth and Sports Minister, also promised to reactivate the National Youth Consultative Council.

Its status, he said, will be upgraded to be on par with the National Economic Action Committee insofar as issues involving the youth are concerned.

It is time, he said, appropriate action is taken to solve the problems of youth organisations which are inactive or slow in their programmes.

"There is no use pointing fingers or blaming youth organisations as Slow or weak. Umno members themselves should 'take the bull by the horns' and get involved in the activities."

Hishammuddin also pledged that Umno Youth will be the bridge between the grassroots and the leaders, and it will be "bold and brave in voicing anything that is wrong".