

# 'Non-Malay PM not practical'

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## Umno Youth will not compromise on this, says Hishammuddin

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun: Umno Youth will not accept a non-Malay Prime Minister for the time being, its head Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said yesterday.

He said although it is a national aspiration to create a Malaysian race without having to consider one's ethnic background, a non-Malay Prime Minister will not fit into the country's current political scenario.

"With regards to the current political scenario our stand is clear

-we cannot compromise on the fact that the Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional (BN) head must come from Umno," he said.

Hishammuddin, also BN Youth head, was commenting on Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement at the MCA general assembly on Saturday where he raised the

possibility of a non-Malay Prime Minister in the future.

"I am quite sure that the Prime Minister is looking far into the future when he said this," Hishammuddin said, adding that it is the Prime Minister's dream that Malaysians will not be differentiated by their ethnic background.

However, Hishammuddin said as

long as there are irresponsible parties who still politicise racial and religious issues for their own gains, then the dream of creating a Malaysian race will not materialise.

He said at the moment the BN formula with Umno as the ruling party is a concept which works.

"It is a recipe which works as it does not raise dissatisfaction among anyone," he said, describing the relationship between Umno Youth and the youth wings of BN component parties as "very good".

Hishammuddin said he will be organising a course for all BN youth

wing members to drum this concept into them.

MCA leaders, Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh and Datuk Chua Jui Meng, while hailing the Prime Minister's statement as "a truly Malaysian concept", doubted if it is practical looking at the country's political composition.

MIC leader Tan Sri K.S. Nijhar said one should not misinterpret the Prime Minister's statement. "The key words here are 'when the time is right'," he said, adding that the MIC is comfortable with the current BN composition.