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Assembly on Malay rights issue possible

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Umno Youth has not ruled out the possibility of organising a special assembly to discuss strategies on how to tackle the Malay rights and privileges issue which has been raised by the Election Appeals Committee of the Chinese Associations of Malaysia (Suqiu).

Its head, Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, said this was necessary as Suqiu had twisted its stand over the matter.

"In a letter sent on Tuesday, they had said that they were not questioning the rights as stated under Section 153 of the Federal Constitution.

"But in a Press release issued yesterday, they accused Umno Youth of playing with Malay sentiments and racial matters by bringing up the issue. This shows that they were not sincere in making their earlier statement."

Hishammuddin, who is Barisan Nasional Youth head and Youth and Sports Minister, was speaking to reporters after chairing Umno Youth's special exco meeting at the party's headquarters today.

Last Friday, some 400 Umno Youth members, led by its deputy head Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir, staged a protest in front of Suqiu's office and presented a memorandum protesting Suqiu's comments.

Hishammuddin also said he would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad soon to explain the developments and to inform him of Umno Youth's stand and the actions which they would be taking.

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