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Debate-DAP

DAP WELCOMES PROPOSED UMNO-PAS YOUTH DEBATE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- The DAP has described the proposed debate between Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and PAS Youth chief Mahfuz Omar as a positive development and said it must be conducted to seek the truth and establish real facts.

Hishammuddin and Mahfuz are supposed to debate on the future of the Malay community.

DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said the debaters must be ready to approach the issue from a Malaysian context and look at how a more united and just Malaysia with a liberalised economy could be promoted.

"The debate will not serve the country or even the Malays any good if it is intended to be an emotionally-charged debate fueled by extreme racial sentiment or staged merely for scoring political points," he said in a statement here today.

Umno and PAS must never forget that whatever problem faced by the Malay community was also a Malaysian problem, Kerk said.

"The recent Malay special rights controversy shows how Malaysians still cannot debate some affirmative economic policies without the whole issue being quickly developed into an issue of racial confrontation," he said.

He added it was time that all groups and parties in the country realised that politics of the new millennium would require mature and responsible discussions of nation-building policies.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and PAS deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang have given their approval for the debate to take place.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AHH RYN