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Hishammuddin announces line-up

Ainon Mohd; Sajahan Waheed

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Businessmen and professionals above 33 years old and approaching 40 form the bulk of leaders appointed as new Umno Youth State chiefs and bureau heads.

The appointments were announced by the movement's chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein today, two weeks after the youth wing's election on May 10.

The only one below 30 is 25-year-old Harrison Hassan who was appointed the movement's executive secretary. Hishammuddin said he could play the role as a representative of the younger generation.

This aside, Hishammuddin has also retained five youth heads from Kelantan, Terengganu, Penang, Perak and Johor while appointing new faces for the remaining eight States.

Those retained were Abdul Rahin Mohd Said (Terengganu) Zahari Kechik (Kelantan) Mohd Ismail Mohd Othman (Penang) Jamal Nasir Rashdi (Perak) and Dr Nasrah Salim (Johor).

The new faces were Ismail Kassim (Perlis), Abdul Wahab Din (Kedah), Datuk Mohd Zaini Salleh (Pahang), Dr Karim Mansor (Selangor), Ahmad Fauzi Zahari (Kuala Lumpur), Shaziman Abu Mansor (Negri Sembilan), Abidullah Salleh (Malacca) and Tawfiq Abu Bakar Titingan (Sabah).

Hishammuddin said the appointment was made "without prejudice" to the fact that most of them were businessmen but was based on their performance and according to the choices made by the grassroots.

He also appointed Azimi Daim as the new information chief while Zulkifli Alwi and Mokhzani Mahathir have been retained as assistant secretary and treasurer respectively.

Hishammuddin also announced the appointment of five people as exco members.

They include Zein Isma Ismail who failed in his bid as deputy Youth head during the party election on May 10.

The others are Datuk Wan Ahmad Farid representing Terengganu, Jamilludin Junit (Malacca), Sahar Sakar (Sabah) and Shamsul Najmi Shamsudin (Pahang).

Hishammuddin warned the new leaders that their appointments was only "temporary" and they would be replaced if they failed to deliver.

"They must realise they have been entrusted with a heavy responsibility," he said when announcing the names of the movement's top State leaders and executive committee at Umno headquarters today.

Defending his move in retaining the five State chiefs, Hishammuddin said the appointment was only "temporary" as they would not be able to defend their post in the coming divisional elections next year.

It is because they are already approaching 40 years old and the movement rules stipulate that with the exception of the national Youth chief, the maximum age for other positions is 40 years.

Hishammuddin said their main aim would be to persuade the young Malays to join the party and to be the prime mover at the grassroots level.

He maintained the number of the movement's bureaus at 12 and appointed two excos each to head the respective bureaus as chairman and deputy.

The bureaus are economic development, education, religion, international affairs, training, Putra brigade, rural development, youth, sports, consumers affairs, special functions and public relations.

Hishammuddin will head the newly-formed political committee, his deputy Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir as the management and disciplinary

committee head and Azimi Daim as information committee chief.
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