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Hishammuddin: It's no to Suqiu

M.K. Megan

CYBERJAYA, Tues. - Umno Youth will not entertain Suqiu's demands as they touch on Malay rights, its chief, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussien, said today.

He said such issues should not be discussed in the open as they are sensitive and could create disunity among the different races in the country. "The demands are made by only a small group of people who are like extremists," he said.

"I don't have any problems with the other youth leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties such as from the MCA, Gerakan and MIC," he told reporters when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the Government could not entertain demands made by the group.

Hishammuddin, who is also the Youth and Sports Minister, was on a visit to the Cyberia SmartHomes project here with 45 staff from his Ministry.

He urged youths of all races to pool their resources to face the bigger challenges ahead instead of being influenced by certain groups making unreasonable demands.

"If they succumb to the influences of these groups their development would be hampered in this era of globalisation," he said.

He said bigger challenges await the youths and that they should be prepared to face them rather than get involved in unreasonable demands.

Suqiu is the acronym for Malaysian Chinese Organisations' Election Appeals Committee which claims to have more than 2,095 associations affiliated to it.

"Information Technology is developing at an alarming rate and our youths will be left behind if they engage in unreasonable activities.

"We have enough IT facilities in Malaysia to involve the youths. They have all the facilities (they need) to be competent in IT to compete with the best in the world."

He said his Ministry would help to organise more IT camps at Cyberjaya. Paramoden Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Emkay Group, is the developer of Cyberia. The Emkay Group has already organised two such camps.

Hishammuddin said he would also incorporate IT education under the Rakan Muda Alaf Baru which would be launched by Dr Mahathir next month.

Hishammuddin attended a briefing on the project at the site sales office and was given a demonstration of the Smart Home features in the show units.

The delegation was also taken on a tour of Cyberjaya, which included the Multimedia University, MSC Central Incubator, the City Command Centre, the Cyberview Lodge hotel and the Century Square office complex.

Hishammuddin said he was impressed with the Cyberia SmartHomes project and the rapid development of Cyberjaya as a whole.

Emkay Group executive chairman Tan Sri Mustapha Kamal Abu Bakar, who accompanied Hishammuddin on the tour, said the Cyberia SmartHomes project had received good response from investors and end-users since its official launch in March this year.

The first three blocks of 420 condominium units have been sold. A new block of condominiums was launched last week, priced from RM163,300.

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