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Hishammuddin-Debate

UMNO YOUTH ACKNOWLEDGES APPROACH FOR DEBATE WITH PAS CRUCIAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein wants his debate with PAS Youth head Mahfuz Omar on the future of the Malays to be held in a calm atmosphere and civilised manner.

He said this was important because in the past such debates had gone out of control so much so that the objective had not been achieved.

"Therefore, although Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad supports our efforts to have the debate, it is important for us to think of the approach to be used," Hishammuddin told reporters after welcoming the prime minister back from his visits to Britain and Bosnia Herzegovina at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Subang.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said at a media conference that the debate should be held but how it should be held must be thought of first by those involved.

Hishammuddin said he would decide on the date, venue and topic for the debate as soon as possible.

Several Umno and PAS leaders had earlier urged that the debate be aborted on grounds that it would not bring any benefits and would not resolve the problems concerned.

Hishammuddin conceded that he was "rather surprised" over the statement by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat yesterday that he did not agree that the debate should be held as he considered it as a waste of time.

However, Terengganu Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang, who is also PAS deputy president, was reported today as agreeing that the debate should be held but it must be conducted in a friendly atmosphere.

Hishammuddin said: "I wish to remind everyone that it was Mahfuz Omar who challenged me to the debate and I accept it with an open mind.

"If PAS wants to dillydally, I'm afraid the debate will not be held. For us in Umno and the Youth movement, the debate is on."

He said the debate would be held before the fasting month if possible.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AZZ AO