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Ungku Aziz-Debate

UNGKU AZIZ UNDECIDED ABOUT POSSIBLE ROLE AS DEBATE MODERATOR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz said he has yet to be invited to be the moderator of the proposed debate between the youth chiefs of Umno and PAS, and will only decide on such a role "when the time comes".

Ungku Aziz, fondly called Pak Ungku, said he had not received any invitation to be the moderator and had only read about the proposed debate in the press.

"Like I say, we have to follow Napoleon Bonaparte's saying +cross the bridge when you come to it+," he said.

"When the time comes, I'll decide," he told reporters today when asked whether he would agree to be the moderator for the debate between Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein of Umno and Mahfuz Omar of PAS.

Hishammuddin has said that Ungku Aziz is one of those being considered to act as moderator in the debate on Malay special rights and privileges.

Ungku Aziz, who is Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Berhad (Angkasa) president, was a guest at an Umno Youth colloquium on the question of attainment of 30 percent Bumiputera equity here today.

Also present were Umno Youth vice-head Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir and Umno Youth Academy chief executive officer Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir.

Asked what he thought of the proposed debate, Ungku Aziz said debating was a good thing to do but it depended on the debaters.

"You have to wait...Datuk Hishammuddin will make some statement and Mahfuz will also make some statement and then you would know whatever it is," said Ungku Aziz, a former vice-chancellor of Universiti Malaya.

Recently, Hishammuddin said the debate would be held next month but the date and venue for it have not been fixed yet.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said that he is agreeable to the debate as it can help to clarify issues on Malay special rights.

PAS deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang also said he has no objection to the debate provided it is held in a decorous and friendly manner.

-- BERNAMA

APG GM YBY