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Youth chief: It's not feasible in near future

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein today said the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that it might be possible one day for a non-Malay to become Prime Minister was one with great vision and hope for the future.

However, he said the Umno Youth felt it would not be feasible in the near future, considering the country's present political and economic status.

"Dr Mahathir's statement is clearly reflective that Malaysia is a truly multi-ethnic country where one's race or religion was not of essence," he said after launching the national sports month at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa.

Hishammuddin, who is Youth and Sports Minister, also warned that the possibility of a non-Malay Prime Minister might never be realised if certain groups continued using racial sentiments to attain personal gains.

He said these groups could cause a split among the races in the country and destroy the harmony which had been fostered and nurtured by the Barisan Nasional Government over the years.

Asked if Dr Mahathir's statement had upset Umno Youth, he said there was no reason to as they (Umno Youth) clearly recognised the fact that BN as a whole was one big family and functioned as a unit and not independently.

"There is no reason for anyone to be upset as the relationship among party members and component party members is great and we have no cause to be unhappy with each other," he said.

He also suggested that a special programme for all the component party youth members be organised with the aim of enhancing relations and exchanging ideas and views towards the betterment of the BN.

Commenting on the numerous Parti Keadilan Nasional youth members who were leaving the party to join Umno, Hishammuddin said Umno Youth felt the main reason for this was that most Keadilan members realised that all the (Keadilan) leaders were interested in was to attain personal gains.

He said this was not the case in Umno where all members worked as a team for the overall betterment of the party and the people's interest.

"All Keadilan members are interested in doing is organising street demonstrations which cause chaos and panic among the people.

"They have finally seen the truth and we at Umno are willing to accept anyone who can work for the good of the people and country," he said.

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