

# ***Hisham: Umno's tough stand collectively taken***

By SA'ODAH ELIAS

KUALA LUMPUR: No Umno supreme council member can "wash" his hands over the party's tough stand on money politics especially its latest decision barring division heads from being involved in business with the Government, said Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

He said some council members might be inclined to distance themselves from the decision which was bound to be very unpopular among division leaders.

"The decision was made by the council, not by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

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Mohamad one.

"It was not his lone decision that the party acts tough on corrupt members, but that of the council.

"So no one should try to wash his hands off this issue by putting the sole burden of that decision on Dr Mahathir just to protect their own popularity," he said.

Dr Mahathir Monday announced that all division heads would be barred from having business dealings with any Government agency with immediate effect and they would also be required to declare their assets.

On his part, Hishammuddin said, he was willing to face any repercussion for making

public his 100% support for any effort to cleanse the party of corrupt practices.

"The problem is not peculiar to Umno, but since the party is the backbone of the Government, it cannot afford not to take this problem seriously," he added.

He was confident that apart from those who would be personally affected by the latest ruling, it would be well-received by the majority of party members.

On the admission of Chinese from the just-dissolved Parti Akar into Umno, Hishammuddin said there was no cause for members to be concerned that the move would result in a conflict of interest.