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Hishammuddin: Seek consent of all countries, even small ones

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno Youth said the United States should seek the consent of other countries, including the smaller ones, before embarking on any action against terrorism.

Its head, Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, said this could be successfully done through an international conference on terrorism which had been earlier proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the US was not alone in its war against terrorism and instead of making the decision alone, it was best they (US) worked with other countries for a unified stand.

"There are many smaller countries which may also have a lot to say, but do not have the avenue to do so.

"Organising such a conference would be the best way to allow everyone to have a say," he said today.

Dr Mahathir had said though Malaysia was against terrorism, it also wanted an in depth look into the causes of terrorism and early preventive action.

He added that Malaysia might make a formal recommendation to the United Nations for the conference.

Speaking after accepting RM50,000 in donations for the Afghan Refugees Relief Fund, Hishammuddin, who is also the Barisan Nasional Youth chief, said the response to the newly-launched fund had been overwhelming and they had collected RM287,000 so far.

Apart from the fund which was mooted by the Umno Youth executive council, he said he had also asked BN Youth members to identify families (from any country) who had lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks to offer any form of assistance possible.

On the call by Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor to officially proclaim Malaysia as an Islamic State in Parliament, he said Pas should think of more beneficial things to do rather than waste time on rhetorics.

"What do they (Pas) hope to achieve by doing this. Instead of harping on unnecessary issues, they should look into ways of assisting the people," he said.

Asked if the recent changes made by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik within the party would have any impact on the BN machinery, he said there was no cause for concern and was confident the party would soon iron out its internal problems, if any.

"I have received an assurance from MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat that the party leadership have the situation under control."

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