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`Anakku Ahli Umno' drive to go nationwide

SUNGKAI, Fri. - The Tanjung Malim Umno division-initiated Anakku Ahli Umno membership recruitment programme will be extended nationwide, Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said today.

He said the programme aptly fitted with Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's three challenges to the movement recently, including the call to every Umno Youth member to find at least five new members.

The programme enables three things to be done simultaneously - scouting for new members, registering existing members as voters and setting up youth operation rooms in every branch.

"I'm proud of this programme ... this is something unique. It must be emulated by other Umno branches and divisions in the country," he told reporters after launching the programme, a brainchild of the division's youth and wanita wings, at Kampung Rahmat in Changkat Sulaiman here.

Hishammuddin, who is Youth and Sports Minister, said the task of finding new members was not only the responsibility of the supreme council members, youth and wanita movements and divisions but the duty of all party members.

He said Umno Youth members must instil the spirit of nationalism and the struggles of Umno in their children to ensure the party remained the pillar of the Barisan Nasional.

"This we need to nurture at an early stage. When my late father (Tun Hussein Onn) got married, my grandfather (Datuk Onn Jaafar) had a dais with the Umno symbol placed as the backdrop ... that's how solid his Umno spirit was," he said, showing the bersanding (wedding) photograph to the crowd.

(Hishammuddin's father Tun Hussein Onn was the country's third Prime Minister.

His grandfather, Onn Jaafar, helped found Umno.)

Hishammuddin said Umno members, especially the youth, need to redouble their efforts to strengthen the party, particularly at the grassroots, and forget about personal squabbles.

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