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Hishammuddin-Umno

"ANAKKU AHLI UMNO" MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TO BE EXTENDED NATIONWIDE

SUNGKAI, July 6 (Bernama) -- 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 calling on every Umno Youth member to find at least five new members.

The programme enabled 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 as the pillar of the Barisan Nasional (BN).

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

Hishammuddin's father Tun Hussein Onn is the country's third Prime Minister and his grandfather Onn Jaafar is Umno founder.

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

"I will appoint two or three executive committee members to monitor the youth movement nationwide to ensure the president's challenges are carried out," he said.

He said each division had been asked to select 40 cadres, who would be given specific training, to face the opposition parties during elections.

Tanjung Malim Umno division youth chief Mohd Khusairi Abdul Talib said the target of the programme was for every parent of an Umno member on the average register three of their children as party members.

The division with 13,000 members at present hopes to increase the membership to 50,000 by 2004.

The Silam Umno division in Sabah has the biggest membership of 37,000.

Activities like gotong-royong, community games, house-to-house survey, free medical service, blood donation and briefing on the setting up of operation rooms would be held during the two-day programme.

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