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Hishammuddin-Talks

UMNO YOUTH SUPPORTS MOVE TO MATERIALISE UNITY TALKS

MELAKA, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- The Umno Youth executive committee which met here today declared full backing for efforts to make the proposed Umno-PAS talks on Malay unity a reality despite unnecessary obstacles.

Movement leader Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said PAS should not let narrow-minded considerations and selfish bargaining impede such efforts.

" If uniting the Malays requires much haggling and bargaining, the Malays themselves will be the victims," he told reporters after the meeting.

Last Sunday PAS postponed indefinitely the meeting, slated for the next day, citing the prevailing atmosphere as non-conducive and insisted that Umno fulfil three new preconditions for the meeting to take place.

PAS demanded that the meeting should discuss oil royalty payment to Terengganu, the frequency of the publication of Harakah, its tabloid official organ and Umno's proposal to ban the use of the term Islam for names of political parties.

At today's Umno Supreme Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Umno was still willing to meet PAS but could not fulfil PAS' new conditions as they are outside Umno's jurisdiction.

On another matter, Hishammuddin said Umno Youth will hold a special assembly at the end of March to hear Dr Mahathir's message in the run up to the party's divisional youth wing elections.

" Our monitoring indicates that new faces will make up 60 per cent of the aspirants for positions in the youth wing elections," he said.

Asked on youth wing leaders no longer eligible to stand for Umno Youth positions because of the age limit, Hishammuddin expressed hope that they could get opportunities to go for posts in the division to prove their calibre and ability.

He added that Umno Youth was determined to bring about socio-economic upliftment for land scheme settlers, smallholders, farmers and fishermen by going to the ground to know and resolve their problems.

-- BERNAMA

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