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Youth resolution supports talks

M. Jeffri Razali

MALACCA, Thurs. - Umno Youth today passed a resolution to support the proposed Umno-Pas unity talks, saying that it is a sincere move to bridge the gap among Malays.

The resolution was one of three passed by the exco which was held at the State Umno headquarters in Jalan Hang Tuah today.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said although certain quarters, from within the country and outside, were working hard to see that it does not take place, the movement was of the opinion that it should be held.

"We feel that the demands (by Pas) should not be used as a basis not to hold the talk, and there should be no bargaining where this is concerned.

"If there is bargaining, at the end of the day, it is the Malays who will suffer most," he said after chairing the exco meeting today.

The unity talks, originally scheduled to be held on Monday, were "postponed" by Pas at the last minute.

When announcing the postponement on Monday, Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor had cited an "unconducive environment" as one of the reason behind the decision.

Meanwhile, Hishammuddin said a special assembly to be held by Umno Youth at the end of next month, before the various divisional youth assemblies.

The special assembly is important in the run-up to the divisional assemblies as it will ensure the smooth running of the elections.

"Based on our monitoring, at least 60 per cent of those who will participate will be new faces."

Hishammuddin said it was hoped that more new faces would be given the opportunity at divisional level.

The special assembly will be opened by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He is expected to address the assembly.

"The address will also serve to define and strengthen Umno Youth's direction," he said.

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