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Youth wing puts ear to the ground at month's end

ALOR STAR, Sat. - The Umno Youth's Pemuda Masuk Kampung programme will kick off at the end of the month with its leaders going to the ground to gather information on problems faced by fishing families in Dungun, Terengganu.

For two days beginning Feb 26, Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein and several of the movement's Exco members will be adopted by families in Kampung Baru Kuala Abang.

By spending time with adopted families and participating in their daily activities, it is hoped that the movement will be able to understand the hardships face by ordinary people and help them.

Umno Youth secretary Zulkifli Alwi said all leaders at the State, division and branch levels would also participate in the programme.

"We will meet, among others, farmers, fishermen, rubber tappers and breeders, with the sole intention of outlining strategies to overcome perennial problems and find ways to upgrade their living standards.

"We are sincere and committed to this mission... all the information we gather through this programme will be submitted to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said after attending the movement's Turun Ke Bawah or Turbah programme with padi farmers in Kampung Permatang Limau in Pokok Sena near here today.

Zulkifli, representing Hishamuddin for the programme, also had a dialogue with the farmers and later presented monetary aid to 20 farmers.

At the dialogue session, several farmers asked the movement to forward to the Prime Minister their requests for padi prices to be increased to RM900 from the present RM550 per tonne.

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