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Hishammuddin-Youth

"YOUTH IN VILLAGE PROGRAMME" TO BE EMPHASISED AT UMNO YOUTH ASSEMBLY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 23 (Bernama) -- The "Youth visit the village" programme will be given emphasis at the Umno Youth delegates conference to be held here on June 18-19, its leader, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, said today.

He said this motion would again be given emphasis to foster ties between Umno Youth members and the village community.

The youth wing wanted to bridge the gap between its members and the village community as well as create harmony between them, he said.

Umno Youth viewed the programme as the most effective means to bolster the local community's confidence in it and Umno in particular, Hishammuddin, who is Youth and Sports Minister, said after receiving International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge at his office, here.

He said the other matters to be emphasised at the conference included the involvement and role of Umno Youth in helping the Afghan refugees in Chaman and the involvement of young people in the country's economic development.

Hishammuddin said there would be a slight change in this year's conference in that the opening would be held at night to give the delegate more opportunity to participate in the debate.

Asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to the Barisan Nasional component parties recently to consolidate their positions, Hishammuddin said he viewed it as a directive to prepare for the general election.

"The (Umno) president's call, if translated to the Umno Youth agenda, is to step up our offensive against the opposition...that's why I view it more as a call to prepare ourselves for the general election which is an important agenda for Umno Youth," he said.

"We have attacked and exposed the weaknesses of the opposition parties in the past but with the president's call, Umno Youth will step up the offensive," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AHA MAD JK