

26/06/2002

`Decision will not affect by-elections'

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Barisan Nasional Youth is confident that the decision made by the party leadership today will not have any bearing on the coming Anak Bukit State and Pendang parliamentary by-elections.

Its head, Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, said it believed that the people were more rational and mature to handle the situation.

"I think the voters will not be affected," he said after chairing the BN Youth meeting at the PWTC today.

Hishammuddin, who is Umno Youth chief, said the meeting was convened to explain to Youth leaders Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to resign as Umno president and BN chairman, and his subsequent withdrawal of this decision.

Hishammuddin said the BN Youth realised and accepted the fact that they could not depend on Dr Mahathir to lead them forever.

"I have advised them to be prepared and continue to shoulder their responsibilities and work hard and strengthen the party. We will give undivided support to Dr Mahathir."

Hishammuddin said the movement truly appreciated the contribution made by Dr Mahathir.

"There is a need for us to explain the incident and for them to raise any questions on the matter. This is our responsibility".

Hishammuddin said Dr Mahathir had on many occasions reminded that he would leave the party and that the movement must work towards achieving the party's agenda.

"Our struggle is not based just on an individual. That is why we have to continue with our struggle. The movement is mature and rational and we will ensure a continuous effort to work towards our agenda."

Hishammuddin said the movement also discussed preparations for the by-election and on the current issues.

"We have already sent our members to open the operations centre. We have discussed our strategies to ensure we win in the by-election."

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