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Hishammuddin-Pendang

UMNO YOUTH, PUTERI CAMPAIGNS EFFECTIVE, SAYS HISHAMMUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth and Puteri Umno are being prevented from campaigning by Pas supporters because the activities and political programmes of the two movements have proven to be effective with voters in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state constituencies.

Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the opposition was beginning to feel the pressure.

He said Pas' action to stop them from campaigning was a recognition to the two movements.

"I just came back from Pendang yesterday. I see that in terms of slogans and banners, it clearly showed their target of attack was Puteri and Umno Youth, ranging from personal to the movements' heads," he told reporters after launching the Women Sports and Fitness Foundation Malaysia 4X4 Action Day at Mines Resort in Seri Kembangan, near here, today.

Hishammuddin, who is Youth and Sports Minister, said the attacks on him and Puteri Umno pro tem head Azalina Othman Said were clearly against Malay culture and Islam and had angered many Umno members.

Nonetheless, he said, he was satisfied with the seriousness shown by Umno Youth and Puteri Umno during campaigns at the by-elections so far.

Hishammuddin said he was aware the two movements were facing many obstacles during campaigning, including Puteri Umno's office being pelted with stones and provocations on Umno Youth members.

"But we are steadfastly holding to the advice of our party president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) who wants the campaign to be carried out orderly and members must be patient when discharging their duties in the interests of the party," he said.

He said there was a clear change among voters in the two constituencies to revert to support Barisan Nasional (BN).

Meanwhile, Azalina, who also attended the media conference, said Puteri Umno members were shocked over PAS' underhand tactics to prevent them from campaigning.

Their tactics were not only clearly opposed to Malay culture but also Islamic principles, said Azalina, who is also president of the Women Sports and Fitness Foundation Malaysia.

On Friday, two Puteri Umno election workers lodged police reports when a Pas supporter exposed his private parts to them while they were campaigning at Kampung Chegar in the Anak Bukit state seat.

Expressing sadness over the incident, she said, the younger generation was shocked by the unruly behaviours of Pas members who claimed to champion the Islamic cause.

"We know they're desperate but we did not expect them to be this desperate," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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