

19 JUN 2003

Umno-Hishammuddin (Motion)

DO NOT PROCEED WITH EMERGENCY MOTION- HISHAMMUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein today urged certain delegates to the current Umno General Assembly not to go ahead with their plans to introduce an emergency motion asking Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to remain as party president.

He said the plan to introduce such a motion over the next three days would be inappropriate.

"I hope if indeed there is such a motion... just forget about it...stop it as it does not respect Dr Mahathir, the party or his successor as party president," he told reporters here.

He was commenting on the "hot news" being spread among delegates and observers to the assembly that at least 89 of the 165 Umno divisions had signed the emergency motion to persuade Dr Mahathir not to step down from the party's number one post.

Hishammuddin said Dr Mahathir's desire to step down from his party and government posts after being at the helm over a long period should be respected by all.

Asked whether Umno Youth would move a motion expressing support for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as Dr Mahathir's successor, Hishammuddin said this was not necessary as the movement had expressed support for Abdullah several times.

"The important thing is for us to show our support through our actions. Many a time in politics there has been motions, letters and signatures expressing support but in the end these came to nothing," he said.

Hishammuddin said even when addressing the assembly this morning, he had expressed support for Abdullah on behalf of the Umno Youth Movement.

-- BERNAMA

RAR KHY ROS AAM