

12 JUN 2003

Hishammuddin-Umno

EDUCATION MOTION AT UMNO ASSEMBLY TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SCHOOLS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- The motion on education to be tabled by Umno Youth at the 54th Umno General Assembly here next week will focus on efforts to strengthen national schools.

"The motion will centre on efforts by Umno and other parties to help the government strengthen national schools," the movement's chief, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, said today.

He told reporters this after launching the "Sports and Hobby Asia 2003" at the Mines international convention and exhibition centre in Seri Kembangan near here.

Hishammuddin said the movement hoped that the existing national schools could be turned into the premier stream of education in the country.

He said Umno Youth would deliberate on how parents and teachers could play their role to make efforts to enhance national schools acceptable to people of all races and religions.

Yesterday, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said three key motions -- on the presidential address, education and economy -- would be tabled at the assembly, which will be held from June 17 to 21.

In PUTRAJAYA, Hishammuddin said the movement would use the general assembly to request for additional seats to contest in the next general election.

"Currently, 77 percent of the people in Malaysia are below 40 years old. Based on this, I, as the Umno Youth chief, hope that young leaders would be given (more) opportunities to help make a success of the country's vision and policies," he said.

However, Youth leaders who aspired to be candidates should be sincere about serving the people, he told reporters after receiving contributions from several organisations for the Malaysian International Peace Fund.

"My request comes with one condition -- that leaders to be nominated should understand the struggle and should not consider the post as a stepping stone for enriching themselves," he said.

However, the movement realised that the question of seat allocation was the prerogative of the leadership, he said.

Hishammuddin said Umno Youth would also be expressing its appreciation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his immense contributions to the country's development.

"We will also express our thanks to Dr Mahathir for giving plenty of opportunities and respect to Umno Youth leaders. This is very meaningful to us," he said.

The assembly will be Dr Mahathir's last as party president as he will retire from his government and party posts in October.

-- BERNAMA

SHI YBY