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Hishammuddin-Economist

THE ECONOMIST FILES REPORT WITHOUT RESEARCH, SAYS HISHAMMUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- The allegations made by "The Economist" against Malaysia and its leaders were wild and baseless, said Umno Youth Chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein today.

He said the magazine targeted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad because it did not want to see the country's leaders to continue to be vocal critics of gross injustice and hypocrisy of the West.

"That is why we cannot allow it to continue to publish such article and to deny the achievements we have made," he told a media conference after opening an entrepreneur seminar on financing from special funds, organised by the movement's economic bureau, here.

Hishammuddin said the Umno Youth would ensure that foreign powers would no longer belittle or deny the country's achievements.

As such, he said the movement would focus its efforts on improving the economy of the Malays by helping them in the entrepreneurial field.

Hishammuddin, who is also Youth and Sports Minister, said the report was also inaccurate as Dr Mahathir had successfully steered the country out of the economic crisis in 1998 without asking help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Although we didn't know how long the country's economy could last, our leaders succeeded in overcoming the crisis," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Hishammuddin said the seminar was a clear manifestation of the Umno Youth's support and determination to help achieved the objectives of the Malay agenda.

He said the movement was confident that improving the lot of the Malay entrepreneurs would be the best strategy towards creating a Bumiputera community of traders and industrialists who could act as the catalyst to enhance the economy of the Malays.

-- BERNAMA

SSA KHY ABG