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Umno-Youth (WindUp)

UMNO YOUTH MUST RISE AS STRONG TEAM TO HELP UMNO IN POLLS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth members should rise as a strong team to help the party face the next general election, its chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said today.

He said the movement, as the party's right wing, was now at the best position to complement Umno's struggles to face the general election, especially to fight PAS.

"Umno Youth will always be in the forefront in the struggle for the religion, race and country apart from championing and guaranteeing the fate of the future generation," he said when winding up the debate on the motion of thanks to his speech at the Umno Youth Assembly.

The assembly, which attended today, was opened by Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday.

Hishammuddin said, as the Umno Youth chief since 1999, he did not expect the movement's leaders and members to be proper in their every action for the party's interest.

"But I always expect every member and leader to give their full commitment and show their seriousness in their struggles for the party," said Hishammuddin, who is also Youth and Sports Minister.

He said this Youth Assembly was historic as apart from being the last assembly before the general election, it was also the last for Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before he calls it a day in October.

As the movement's appreciation for Dr Mahathir for his contributions to Umno's struggles and national development, Umno Youth promised to work hard in the general election, he said.

"We'll continue the struggles of the Malay race and at the same time, we'll also go all-out to oppose PAS," he said.

He said the movement was all fired up to fight PAS which he described as "a traitor to the race and religion."

Earlier, in his adjournment speech, Umno Religious Bureau Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo, urged Umno Youth to set aside their inferiority complex when facing the opposition, particularly PAS.

He said the movement actually had the ability to compete with PAS leaders in all fields as they are individuals with knowledge and noble values, contrary to PAS' attitude.

"Actually, PAS members are also not smart because of late in their ceramahs, they (PAS members) are not taught about knowledge," said Dr Khir, who is also Selangor Menteri Besar.

He said the attitude of PAS members who caused disturbances when the khatib reads the Friday sermon and the boycott of Friday prayers in Shah Alam recently showed they were ignorant of the true teachings of Islam.

-- BERNAMA

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