

03/08/2005

Hishammuddin-AP

UMNO YOUTH WANTS APs ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth wants the controversy surrounding the distribution of approved permits (AP) resolved as soon as possible, its chief, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said today.

He said the issue had dragged on for too long without a satisfactory explanation and had created other contributory issues that needed to be answered.

"One is the relationship between our former prime minister and (Datuk Seri) Rafidah (Aziz). I feel that it is very pertinent in the context of our value system that needs to be resolved soon.

"Second is the issue of the national car policy, how the AP's will affect our national car, the Proton," Hishammuddin, who is Education Minister, said after chairing the ministry's post-cabinet meeting here.

He was asked to comment on Umno Youth's stand on the issue which surfaced following the recent spat between former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Rafidah, the International Trade and Industry minister, over the award of the APs to import cars.

Hishammuddin felt that it was Rafidah's duty to answer all the allegations regarding the issuance of the APs as indicated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Asked why Rafidah did not attend the Cabinet meeting today, he said: "You have to ask her. I don't know the reason. I think she is not well."

-- BERNAMA

NJ RIZ JK