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A great leader in a unique culture

ONLY a great leader who is not intoxicated with power and position is willing to step down and allow his successor to replace him at a time when support for the party is at its peak.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, tabling the motion of thanks to the presidential address yesterday, said this was the unique culture which had been adopted by past leaders, from Tengku Abdul Rahman, Tun Hussein Onn and current Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Hishammuddin said the culture as proven by these leaders in ensuring a smooth leadership transition reflected political maturity of the party at its best.

He said it was therefore the responsibility of party members to play their role to ensure that the party remained intact and united.

"There must not be among us who will be caught in polemics created by irresponsible parties that have their own agenda."

Paying tribute to Dr Mahathir, Hishammuddin said his late father Hussein Onn had made many decisions during his lifetime.

"But to me, the three wisest decisions he ever made were - the first, marrying my mother, Tun Suhailah Mohd Noah; second, that this union led to my existence; and third, in 1976 to appoint Dr Mahathir as the Deputy Prime Minister who later became the leader of the party and nation."