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Umno Youth pledges support for Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno Youth today pledged support for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the new Prime Minister and acting Umno president.

The movement also expressed its appreciation for the contributions of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Umno Youth congratulates Datuk Seri Abdullah on his appointment as the fifth Prime Minister of Malaysia and we are grateful because the transition of power went smoothly," movement chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said.

He was speaking after chairing the Umno Youth executive council meeting at Putra World Trade Centre today.

He said all movement leaders and Exco members would continue to support the new leadership under Abdullah and promise to fulfil the party's agenda.

Hishammuddin said the movement thanked Dr Mahathir for his dynamic leadership which brought development to Malaysia.

"Umno Youth also appreciates Dr Mahathir for his constant guidance and advice to Youth leaders."

On the Deputy Prime Minister's post, Hishammuddin said all speculation concerning this must stop, adding that Umno members must respect Abdullah's choice when he announced it.

On whether he was confident with the Umno vice-presidents' pledge to not question Abdullah's choice, he said he was confident that they were sincere in their pledge.

He said party members must instead focus on winning the general election and prevent internal bickering.

Hishammuddin, who is Barisan Nasional Youth chairman, also urged State BN Youth component party members to forge closer ties to enhance the BN's election machinery.

He said BN Youth at the national level already had a close relationship, and the ties must be extended to State and divisional levels.

He said in the past, BN Youth only co-operated during the general election or by-elections, so it was high time that BN Youth promoted co-operation in all party programmes.

He said co-operation at the divisional level was crucial to understand each party's role.

"Umno, MCA, MIC, Gerakan and other BN parties have this co-operation with their grassroots members, so now we want to adopt this approach in the BN Youth."

Hishammuddin said Umno Youth would set up seven special election units as part of the movement's election machinery.

He said the movement's Exco members would be in charge of the units.