

Hisham: Umno going through 'revision, transformation'
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Umno vice-president Hishammuddin Hussein has deflected criticisms of "infighting and weak leadership" thrown at the Malay party by former party chief Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

"It is not unique to Umno only. I do not deny it, but we are going through the process of revision and transformation," he told reporters when approached on the sidelines of the presidential address session for the party's youth wings, Pemuda and Puteri in PWTC, Kuala Lumpur today.

He reasoned that former premier is always known for making waves before the party meets for its annual general assembly.

"If you know him, he always makes such remarks prior to an Umno general assembly."

However, Hishammuddin reiterated that the Malay-based party is far from sitting still.

"Today's attendance and event shows that Umno is moving to solve those problems," assured the Sembrong MP.

Meanwhile fellow vice-president Shafie Apdal agreed with Hishammuddin that the party is already moving to address the issue.

However, said Shafie, it may not be possible to please everyone, Mahathir included.

"We have done a lot in terms of a party unity, it is not easy to fulfill everybody's need and desire," he said when approached at the same function.

Umno-owned daily Utusan Malaysia published a hard-hitting exclusive with former premier Mahathir in their Sunday edition today.

In it, the former Umno president and premier of 22 years hit out at his own appointed successor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for purportedly wrecking the party which dominated the ruling BN coalition and Malaysian politics for nigh 54 years.

Mahathir accused the present day Umno, which he claimed was still reeling from Abdullah's bad stewardship, "weak" because of "internal infighting" and plagued by a dearth of capable leadership.

Its current leaders, said the octogenarian, are busy looking after their own skins.

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