

Khairy chides anti-NEP Malays

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth yesterday warned those who wanted to see the New Economic Policy abolished, especially the Malays themselves.

Its deputy head Khairy Jamaludin said although Umno received cold shoulders and uneasiness from the Barisan Nasional component parties with regard to the NEP, he did not give them much thought.

"However what saddens us most is when the Malays themselves raise the issue and want it (the NEP) abolished.

"A former Umno deputy president himself said there was no need for the NEP. He failed to realise that when he was in Umno, he was the richest Umno Putera then," he said when winding up at the close of the Umno Youth assembly. On the finding of Asli's Centre for Public Policy Research that the Malay equity share was Khairy said if that was the case, there was no need for the Umno general assembly to annually discuss Malay poverty and find ways to improve their standard of living. He added the Malay's equity-

share was not the only measure of the well being of the Malays, as there were many other factors like household income level

Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, in his winding up, said the movement is on solid foundation, with a sense of direction. He said this is unlike, the situation eight years ago when a leadership struggle left it rudderless. He said despite numerous challenges faced by the movement questioning of bumiputra rights and privileges, Inter Faith commission and even the Panca Warisan kens, "the movement was able to face them with a united front.

"We should not be apologetic about the rights and privileges which are rightfully ours. At the same time, we should not cause others Fear or make them fear us because of it."

He said the movement must consider that Malaysia is a plural society, and thus its actions should not cause any disunity. "As the son of the Father of Unity (Bapa Perpaduan), I cannot be termed as the Father of Disunity," he said.