

Leaders hit out at Mukhriz

UMNO leaders criticised Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir for allegedly scoffing the policy speech of Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and saying that it contained no new ideas.

Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said Mukhriz's remark was extreme and an embarrassment for the movement.

He said it was sad that Mukhriz had made such a remark when he was a senior executive council member of the movement, adding that it was his (Mukhriz's) personal

Hisham: His remark an embarrassment to Youth wing

stand and sentiment.

"On behalf of Umno Youth, I would like to state that Mukhriz's remark is not reflective of Umno Youth's stand and view. We have expressed our undivided support for the president and Umno Youth has recognised the contributions made by Tun (Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former Umno president and former prime minister)," he told reporters after attending the dinner hosted by Umno

Deputy President Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for delegates to the Umno general assembly.

Hishammuddin said he would have to reconsider the position of Mukhriz in the Umno Youth executive council line-up if more such remarks came from him.

Umno Putera chief Datuk Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim accused Mukhriz of being the source of the rift between the Prime Minister and Tun Dr

Mahathir Mohamad.

"He clapped his hands when he was listening to Pak Lah's speech but gave a twisted statement when he came out."

Supreme Council member Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Mukhriz had insulted the party president, adding that his remark smacked of hatred for Abdullah.

"Because Mukhriz is thick with prejudice, the hatred has closed his heart and mind so

much that he could not see the depth in Pak Lah's speech."

Datuk Azalina Othman Said, also a Supreme Council member, said she was taken aback with the criticism, adding that it did not help with efforts to mend the rift between Abdullah and Dr Mahathir.

She said Mukhriz should have known better and been more respectful towards the party leadership.

Datuk Seri Zainuddin Maidin

said that there was new material in Abdullah's speech, especially on the distribution of wealth among Malays.

"It depends on where you stand. There are two sides to a coin. Maybe, that is why Mukhriz cannot see anything new.

"He (Abdullah) has a different style and approach in running the Government."

Another Supreme Council member, Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed, said he was disappointed that such an important speech had been trivialised by Mukhriz's comment.