

BN Youth to explain Khairy's remarks

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KUALA LUMPUR: Having listened to Umno Youth deputy chief Khairy Jamaluddin's explanation yesterday, Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth leaders have agreed to go to the ground to explain his remarks which upset the Chinese community.

BN Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said Khairy had told them his struggle was sincere, and his intention was not to marginalise the other races or groups.

In August, Khairy, who is also the prime minister's son-in-law, came under fire for saying at an

Umno divisional delegates meeting in Kedah the Chinese community would try and take advantage of a weak Umno.

"Khairy said the issue was widely played up and he was misinterpreted by certain quarters," Hishammuddin said after the BN Youth exco meeting. "I feel proud and impressed with the understanding we have achieved because, for the first time, our meeting discussed a personal and sensitive issue."

He said it was important for component party leaders to work together for all groups regardless of race and religion.

Asked whether all the parties accepted Khairy's explanation,

Hishammuddin said it was best not to disclose what transpired in detail as it would only prolong the issue.

"I asked them repeatedly, and they said they were all satisfied with his explanation. But I leave it to my colleagues (in the youth exco) to explain the details to their members," he said.

At a separate press conference later, MCA Youth chief Datuk Liow Tiong Lai and Gerakan Youth chief Datuk Mah Siew Keong were non-committal about whether they were satisfied with Khairy's explanation.

But they said they were satisfied with the meeting which was "very frank" and which

allowed everyone to speak up and to convey the people's sentiment.

On whether the BN will advise Khairy to be more careful so that he would not be misconstrued again in future, Hishammuddin said the advice applied to everyone.

Asked whether he sees MCA's and Gerakan Youth's arguments as baseless, he said it was not the case as their arguments were made before Khairy's explanation.

"We must always go forward. What is important now is not so much to look back. Whatever hiccups we faced in the past, there are channels for us to overcome it," he said.