

Mukhriz let off with a stern warning

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir was let off with a stern warning after he apologised to the Umno Youth executive council for his outburst against the party president last month.

Umno Youth will arrange for Mukhriz to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi soon so he can personally apologise to the party president and explain himself.

Mukhriz, chairman of the youth wing's International Relations and Non-Governmental Organisation bureau, had said the party president's speech at last month's Umno general assembly offered nothing new and that he was a bit disappointed with it.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said yesterday the exco unanimously accepted Mukhriz's detailed explanation.

"A wrong is a wrong. The exco agreed that what Mukhriz did was wrong in principle, irresponsible and against the rules and spirit of the Umno resolution.

"This serves as a good lesson to all of us.

It will only make us stronger and more united. We will not, at any time, hesitate to take action against any party member, irrespective of his (position in the) hierarchy," he told newsmen after the three-hour exco meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

He added that the decision reflected the collective view of the exco. He declined to

reveal the details of the meeting.

"There will be no further action against Mukhriz. The matter is now closed," he said, adding that Mukhriz's relationship with former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is his father, had no bearing on the outcome of the meeting.

Asked why it took so long for the exco to meet, he said it was to allow Mukhriz sufficient time and space to prepare himself.

Mukhriz said he regretted his actions and was glad that his explanation was accepted. He added that he was not forced by anyone, including his father, to speak out against Abdullah.

Asked why he took so long to apologise to Umno Youth, Mukhriz said he was told to give his side of the story at yesterday's exco meeting.

"I now wait to meet Pak Lah to personally apologise to him.

"I have no further comments."

Hishammuddin hit out at certain quarters for playing up the issue, saying they wanted to see disunity in Umno Youth.

He also urged the police to investigate the spread of malicious rumours and the purported seditious statements made during the Umno general assembly.