

# Youth wing 'will accept consequences'

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**BACHOK:** There was nothing seditious about the speeches made by Umno Youth delegates during the recent Umno general assembly, Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said.

He said although some of the delegates were emotional and had gone overboard in their speeches, they were respectful enough to resolve issues amicably.

"For me, the relationship between Barisan Nasional party components is better now, especially among the Youth chiefs. If there is any problem, we can sit down together," he said.

Hishammuddin was commenting on the possibility that action might be taken against Umno delegates who touched on racial sensitivities

during their speeches.

Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Razak had said last Tuesday that some of them had the tendency to play to the gallery.

Police are investigating four reports lodged by DAP members against several Umno members for their fiery speeches at the recent party assembly under the Sedition Act 1948.

Hishammuddin said the important thing was that the Youth members had addressed their issues through the right channels and, therefore, should not be labelled as "extremists".

"The BN component parties also understand the Umno Youth's point of view. It will not be a big issue if it is not exploited by those with deviant intentions," he said.

However, Hishammuddin said

that the wing was ready to accept any consequences if found to have violated any rules.

"We are not above the law and will face punishment if found guilty," he told reporters after the closing of the Dikir Barat Festival here by Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim on Saturday night.

Hishammuddin said some of the issues raised by Umno Youth delegates this year were not new, but certain sensitive matters were made public due to the assembly's live telecast.

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"What is important right now is to understand our joint responsibility (towards the country)," he said.

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*Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein*