

# Mukhriz to face Youth exco

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir will face the Umno Youth executive committee on Nov 30 to explain the controversial remark he made about Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's policy speech at the Umno general assembly.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the wing expected something more substantial than the "two-liner" Mukhriz had offered so far.

Hishammuddin said the committee would weigh and decide

on the action to be taken.

"He will have to explain more than the two-liner we have heard. Whether his explanation is enough will be weighed at our meeting. There will be a decision but I will also guide the exco on the extent to which we should act.

"However, I do not intend to bring this further to the main party or the disciplinary committee. The Prime Minister has said that it is a Youth matter and any decision made will be within the Youth wing."

Mukhriz, who is a Youth executive committee member, had caused a stir at the assem-

bly when he said the presidential speech did not offer new ideas nor was it different from that of the previous year.

He was criticised by his Youth colleagues.

Mukhriz, the third son of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, issued a two-line statement several days later to say that he had not meant to hurt Abdullah and that he accepted Hishammuddin's reprimand.

Hishammuddin said he was personally very disappointed with Mukhriz's behaviour.

"I have given him a lot of space but this time around, I think he overstepped the line. It

was against everything I had tried to inculcate in the exco and so soon after my closing speech where I had talked about loyalty to the leader and party," said Hishammuddin.

Asked whether Mukhriz was merely acting in the new spirit of openness and transparency, he said that there was a time and place for being open.

"You can't do that as a senior exco member especially when the Youth wing has clearly stated that we support Pak Lah's leadership. People are asking what his motives are: Criticism for the sake of criticism does not go down well with the party.

"This is a learning process for young politicians, that position comes with responsibility and the trust to maintain the institution. If the institution is not intact, nobody is going to listen to you."

On how this would affect Mukhriz's political future, Hishammuddin said it depended on how the former carried himself.

"The fact that he is the son of a former PM, like myself, gives him a bit of an edge and opens doors. But after that, it depends on your perseverance and how you feel the pulse of your constituency."