

**Umno Club Should Be At Forefront In Helping Malaysians Abroad - Ahmad Shabery  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Overseas Umno Club (OUC), whose branches are spread far and wide, should be at the forefront of helping Malaysians abroad who are in need of assistance irrespective of their background, said OUC chairman Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

He said the club now had 74 branches worldwide which put it in good stead to extend assistance fast.

"The club's network is very strong, even the government cannot match it. The government's reach is only through students departments manned by just two or three staff and foreign missions that are mostly available in capital cities.

"But the clubs are available even in small towns like St Petersburg for example," he told reporters after opening a leadership seminar for the club's members at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

Ahmad Shabery, who is also Youth and Sports Minister and Umno's Foreign Affairs Bureau chairman, said the the club was no longer seen as a political agenda but a non-governmental organisation that was effective in bringing together Malaysian students throughout the world.

He also advised the club's members to take to heart Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's transformation initiatives for the nation although they were abroad.

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