

Umno vice-president says family lineage no guarantee of success in party
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Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein (pic) has declared that his family lineage is not a licence to go up the party ladder.

"In the past there have been cases of members rejecting such leaders and this proves that your lineage is no guarantee to succeed in Umno," he said in an interview with *Mingguan Malaysia*.

He said this in response to a suggestion that he had an advantage being the son of the late Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia's third prime minister.

Hishammuddin, who is also a cousin of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, said his family background was unavoidable because he was born into a political family.

He said when he ventured into politics, he was referred to as the grandson of Onn Jaafar (Umno founder), as Hussein's son and Najib's cousin.

"Umno members are capable of assessing their leaders," he said, adding that there were leaders similar to his background who were not successful in politics.

He said members primarily evaluated their leaders based on their contribution to the party and not on their family ties with past leaders.

"I am not denying my background gives me an edge over others in the party but nothing is certain," he said.

Hishammuddin, a lawyer by profession, first won the Tenggara parliamentary seat in the 1995 general election. He was elected Umno Youth head before going up the party ladder as one of the three vice-presidents in 2009.

The 52-year-old previously served as minister of Youth and Sports, Education, and Home Affairs. After the 13th general election, he was appointed as Defence Minister. - September 8, 2013.

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