

Khairy should explain remarks, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth deputy chief Khairy Jamaluddin should explain to the Chinese community his reported remarks that the community would take advantage of Umno's internal problems to make demands, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

"It is a thing that Khairy himself needs to respond to and explain," he told reporters after officiating at the 1st Putrajaya National Watercolour Competition 2006 at the National Art Gallery.

He had earlier opened the 53rd MCA annual general assembly at Wisma MCA, where the issue was a hot topic.

Abdullah said he did not know what Khairy's exact remarks were.

However, he said he has told Khairy that Khairy should respond if there is an issue for which the

people wanted an explanation.

He said he has advised Khairy to be careful when making statements, especially those that can cause misunderstanding.

"Barisan Nasional is a multi-racial party. Thus, when there is an issue which is sensitive, of course other component parties will react," he said.

Asked whether Khairy should apologise to the Chinese community, Abdullah said he could not say at that juncture as it would depend on Khairy's exact remarks.

Khairy had reportedly said at an Umno Youth delegates meeting in Kedah recently that Umno needed to be strong lest the Chinese community took advantage of this to make demands.

Asked about the resolution by Umno Kubang Pasu division's youth wing, calling for Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz to be sacked from his ministerial post

and the party, Abdullah said calls for disciplinary action should be referred to the party's disciplinary committee.

The division also reportedly wanted Nazri to make a public apology for his criticism of former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On another development that the Chad government had asked Petronas to leave the African country within 24 hours after failing to meet their tax obligations, Abdullah said the government will leave it to Petronas to gather information on the incident.

He said he was surprised by the incident, adding that Petronas does not have a track record of tax evasion.

According to Reuters, the Chad government had ordered Petronas and US energy giant Chevron on Saturday to leave the country, a move apparently aimed at increasing control over its oil output.