

PM: Up to delegates

The STAR - 7/8/2006

'Khairy will not hold post if Youth does not want him'

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said his son-in-law, Khairy Jamaluddin, who has been the target of slander and allegations by various parties, would not hold the post of Umno Youth deputy chief if the delegates did not want him anymore.

Abdullah, who is Umno President, was asked to comment on Khairy's statement yesterday that he was prepared to quit his post if the movement considers him a liability to the party.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Community Sports League at Padang Semarak in Angkasapuri here, the Prime Minister said all Umno leaders should hold the same principle.

"Yes, yes ... whoever it is, the principle is the same," he said.

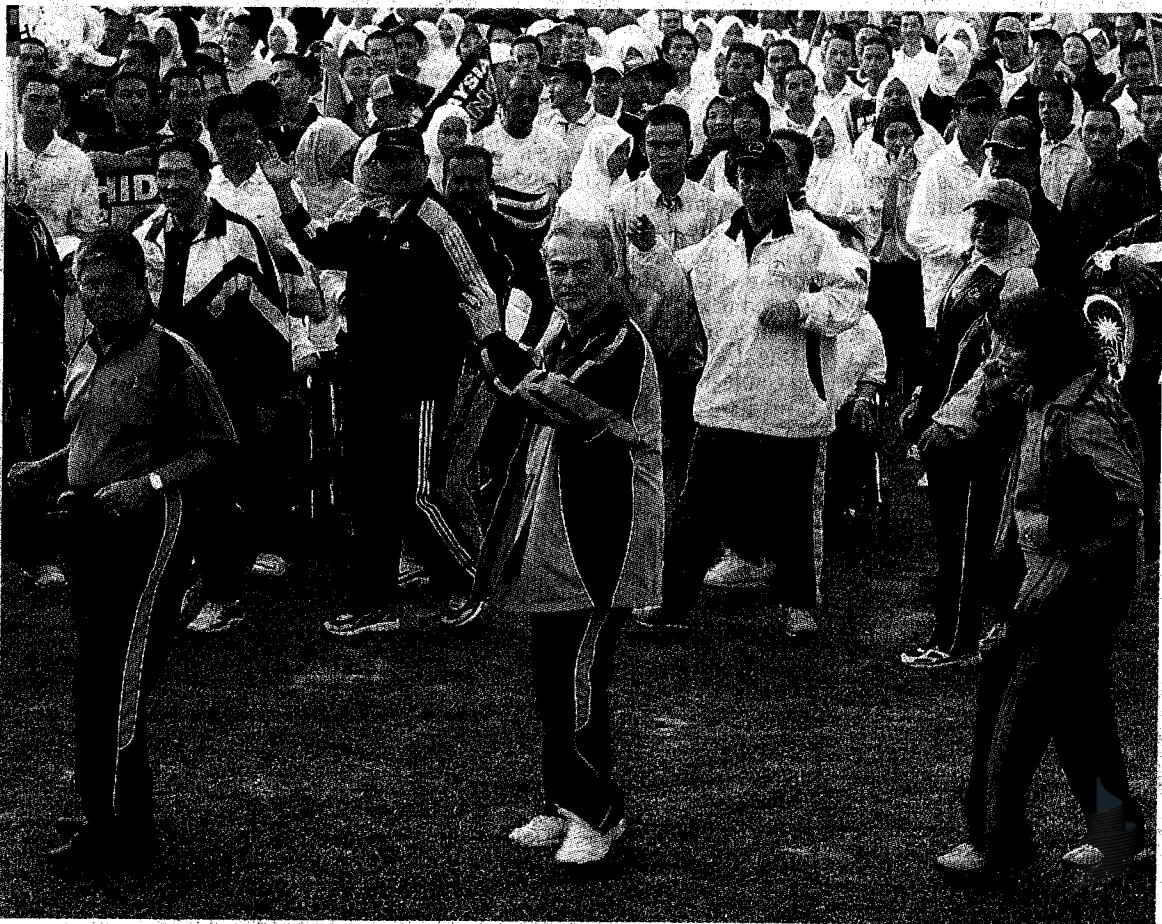
On Friday, Khairy said he was ready to quit the movement if he was a liability.

But as a mark of respect for party members, Khairy said that only the movement's delegates could decide on his position, as they were the ones who elected him.

Khairy said he wanted to seek the views of Umno Youth grassroots members as to whether he had become a liability what with all the talk about him.

On another matter, Abdullah, who is the Organisation of the Islamic Conference chairman, said he received a telephone call from Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora on Saturday asking him to extend his appreciation to Malaysians for their support.

"He thanked all Malaysians for their support of the Lebanese struggle against Israel and he also thanked me and the OIC members for the seven-point declaration at the recent emergency meeting which he hoped would get the world's attention," he said.



TIME FOR EXERCISE: Abdullah joining RTM staff for aerobics at Padang Semarak in Angkasapuri yesterday. With him are Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Azalina Othman Said.