

Hishammuddin: Explanation by Khairy well received by Youth

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth has given Khairy Jamaluddin ample room and channels in its meetings to explain to the grassroots on allegations levelled at him.

Movement chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said they allowed him to speak because "he is the only one who can answer and defuse such allegations."

"This is why we encouraged and allowed him to use the Youth meetings to express and explain to the members his side of the story," he said.

"It is up to the members to listen and analyse his explanation. I believe, sooner or later, they will believe what he has to say."

He said Khairy's explanation, so far, has been well received by the wing.

Since last Friday, Khairy has been talking to several Umno Youth divisions

during which he denied marrying popular Malay actress Maya Karin.

He also replied to allegations that he interfered in government administration, became a millionaire overnight and could afford to buy ECM-Libra Berhad shares. He also said he was prepared to relinquish his post as Umno Youth deputy chief if he was considered a liability to the movement.

However, Hishammuddin said Khairy's offer to quit is immaterial at this stage.

He added that he met Khairy on Tuesday night and they agreed that he (Khairy) should move forward and pursue the bigger party agenda instead of wasting time and energy clarifying the allegations.

"There is no need for him to continue with his explanation. Some members are stubborn and refuse to listen. We

will only explain to those who want to listen.

In **Kota Kinabalu**, Khairy said he would "move on" now that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had given his clarifications and the majority of the *rakyat* had also accepted his explanations.

"If some people still do not accept the explanation. I don't think it will be necessary for the Government or its leaders to repeat the answers over and over again," he told reporters after opening the joint annual delegates meeting of the Kota Belud and Kota Marudu Umno Youth wings.

"I feel the *rakyat* have accepted the explanation but if there are those who do not accept the explanation, we should consider it as a difference of opinion."