

Youth must focus on nation's agendas

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TODAY until Nov 17, Umno members as representatives and delegates from all divisions across the country, including those of the Putera wing, Puteri Umno, Umno Youth and Wanita Umno, will assemble at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Being in Umno Youth, I would like to call on all youth members to keep our attention focused on issues pertaining to the nation's agendas, strategic and progressive actions and development plans. The younger generation would like to see our elders move on with greater exemplary achievements and accomplishments. During these four days of congregation, it is hoped that the leaders would come to an amicable conclusion and put a definite end to unwarranted political bickering.

The Youth movement today would like to see that round pegs are knocked into round holes rather than forcing a square peg into a round hole. For instance, where religion is concerned, matters should be handled with subtlety and only by the pious and true scholars of the respective religions, rather than by youth members jumping on the bandwagon.

The Ninth Malaysia Plan must be seen as a plan within the means and



reach of today's government. The Youth movement must uphold and support the plan steadfastly to ensure that whatever has been laid out is attainable and achieved in the interests of the nation.

The Kuala Lumpur Composite Index rose to more than 1,000 points last week, which should be seen as a good sign of our nation's economic progress. This rising trend must be sustained and the people should stay intact and focused, the more so to ascertain national stability and prosperity. Youth members should take this opportunity to commit themselves to the nation's economic growth. As we know, leaders come and leaders go. Naturally, it is left to the younger generation to take over and continue steering the nation on the path set by our predecessors. God willing, it is hoped that by the year end, the composite index will go up to more than 1,200 points.

All youth leaders should not allow

unity in the movements, be it Umno or other Barisan Nasional component parties, to be threatened or placed in jeopardy by issues considered sensitive to all. Exclamations of equal rights and equal rules must not be dwelt and toiled on unnecessarily to create disparity and confusion among society. Even though surveys and studies have been conducted, the youth today must not allow themselves to be easily influenced by individuals or particular groups into feeling dissatisfied, leading to danger and calamity. Being true Malaysians, no one party can claim to be better or worse of than another. If we keep pointing fingers with all sorts of accusations, we would never come to any agreement, be it for good or ill.

We must learn from our past. History has shown that if we decide to stand for one particular individual or even one particular group, in the end it always turns out that it's that one particular individual or group that will stand to lose. Malaysia was built and has developed with contributions from all ethnic compilations. There is no reason whatsoever for us, when we are highly regarded by other nations, to only now start dwelling on, playing up and sensationalising ethnic rights and rules. The lesson of

May 1969 should be well learnt by our youth today. We must try to look upon and tackle matters with great subtlety and consistency. As the saying goes: We reap what we sow. Likewise, the responsibility for achieving the Ninth Malaysia Plan does not solely rest on the government but also greatly depends on the younger generation of the country.

The Youth movement should also gear up and move forward in supporting the present national guidelines and programmes so as to achieve the vision set out by our leaders. What we want to hear, see and talk about are matters that are more focused on economic growth and the

humanistic development of the people in this country, which we all love so much. All these would make the Youth movement be seen to be more meaningful rather than discussing and appearing quite sentimental about individualistic matters.

The Umno Youth movement, comprising young community leaders who will one day turn into the future leaders of this nation, must stay focused on matters such as providing strength and support to the nation's development plans. Looking back at our Eastern norms, where the young must always and forever respect their elders, we should not allow ourselves to be influenced by foreign or "alien" cultures in accepting inappropriate mannerisms. If the negative mannerism of disrespect for elders is not checked, and is accepted as a way of life in our youth today, we may live to regret it as we, too, would one day become elderly. To conclude, I would like to wish all Umno Youth delegates to the assembly a happy and successful congregation and may Allah bless us all.

■ Datuk Azimi is Umno Youth information chief

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