

Youth to stay true to party and leaders

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth will uphold the tradition of loyalty to the party and its leaders, the movement's head, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, said.

He stressed that such a stand was important to ensure that the Malay agenda, especially in relation to economic development, would not be jeopardised by internal crisis caused by certain individuals in the party.

He said all youth members knew that in good and bad times, they had a duty and responsibility to defend Umno, the party that champions the rights of the Malays.

"The concept of loyalty to the party and party leaders is a practice that we will uphold. This has always been our way which we learnt when we started off in politics," he said in an interview before the start of the Umno general assembly tomorrow.

As such, he said, the spat between former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would have no effect on Umno Youth.

"We have stressed to the members that the interest of the majority must supersede the interest of individuals," he said, adding that he would monitor the situation closely so nobody would take advantage of the situation to split the party.

He said the main agenda of the movement was to discuss the New Economic Policy (NEP), especially the socio-economic gap.

Hishammuddin also said that Umno Youth would strive to raise the standard of national schools and enhance the image of teachers.

He also welcomed the establishment of Putera Umno, saying that the movement would attract those aged between 15 and 25 years old.

"They include problematic groups such as the Mat Rempit (illegal motorcycle racer). We are positive about it, regardless of the criticisms and allegations hurled against us," he said.