

Youth unhappy with Mukhriz

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THE political future of Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir hangs in the balance. It will depend on his next course of action.

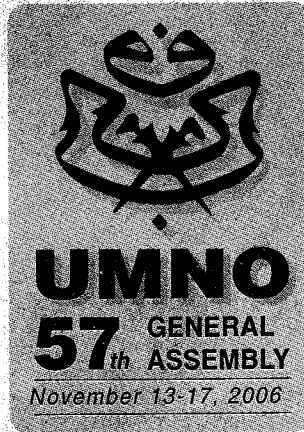
Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein hit out at Mukhriz for purportedly having scoffed at the party president's speech, saying that it contained no new ideas.

"We have to wait and see what he does from now on because he made the statement in public. I have spoken to all my state Youth chiefs and exco members," Hishammuddin said while visiting the media centre yesterday.

"All, even those close to him, felt he has done wrong. The ball is in his court."

Hishammuddin said he had not spoken to Mukhriz, a Youth exco member, about the incident.

He added that Mukhriz had been given a lot of leeway because of his "special" position as the son of former Umno



president and Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"He has made many statements before this and I have been very patient with him because I realise he is caught between personal loyalty to his father and his position as an exco member," he added.

"But that changed yesterday (Thursday) because he crossed

the line. For someone to go against what is our true position is not only wrong but creates a lot of anger."

He said Umno Youth had been given the "honour" of seconding the president's speech.

He said Mukhriz either had not understood or "purposely did not want to understand" his message about being loyal to the leader and party.

He added that although the party's leadership had said there was no gag order on members, what Mukhriz did was against the wing's principles as they had supported the president's policy speech.

When asked, Hishammuddin denied he was under pressure to make the statement.

On Umno and MCA criticising each other during their respective party assemblies, he said that all BN youth wings knew they had a shared responsibility for the future.