

Explain your remarks, Umno Youth tells Mukhriz

The Star - 19/11/2008

MARAN: Umno Youth has given Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir "a day or two" to explain his controversial remarks on Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's presidential address at the general assembly.

Its chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the wing was waiting for the explanation before deciding whether to take disciplinary action against exco member Mukhriz.

He said Mukhriz had to explain to the Youth executive council why he had made the statement, which was not in line with the movement's stand.

Mukhriz had said that the Umno president's speech offered nothing new.

Hishammuddin, who was attending a Hari Raya open house here, said the movement would not be split even if action were taken against Mukhriz.

"In Umno's history, no single person has been able to destroy the party despite there being problems," he said.

In Kuala Lumpur, Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz described what Mukhriz had done as "something that was not right."

She said it showed that he did not understand what it meant to toe the party line, adding that she did not think he

had even listened to Abdullah's speech.

"That's the quality of some of our people - I'm sorry to say - who don't know how to differentiate between personal grievance and the party," she said after hosting the wing's Hari Raya open house.

Rafidah, who has been attending Umno general assemblies for 40 years, noted that even Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had repeated many things in his 22 years as president because "he said *Melayu mudah lupa* (The Malays forget easily)."

She stressed that exco members of a wing should not criticise the party leader publicly, and suggested they use party channels to raise grievances.

"Do you think Wanita Umno has never criticised Tun Dr Mahathir, never criticised Pak Lah (Abdullah)?"

"But we don't do it with malice. That's very important. We don't do it in a way that belittles the leader," she said.