

Umno Youth to show full support for PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth is to show its support to the Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi-led government at its general assembly next week.

"Our stand since the problem started between the Umno president and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been undivided support for our party president," Youth information chief Datuk Azimi Daim said in a press conference yesterday.

He said Umno Youth delegates appointed as speakers would not be stopped from raising any issues, including sensitive ones, provided it is done professionally and politely and "one must be responsible for his actions".

He said if the Abdullah-Mahathir spat was not raised, the grassroots may erroneously view the movement as not accepting political reality and what was happening.

"Let's be straightforward ...

issues will be raised and we will abide by the supreme council's decision last week. Differences in opinion is something unavoidable anywhere," Azimi said.

"Apart from tabling the motions on religion, education, economy, social and politics, the delegates will debate Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussien's opening speech and on the government's administration, especially on improving the public delivery system, the Ninth Malaysia Plan and the recent controversies concerning the Port Klang assemblyman and Klang municipal councillor (Datuk Zakaria Mat Deros)."

He said the movement will also talk about the recent clash of views, opinion and statements made by the Youth wings of the Barisan Nasional component parties.

"We want to see all the BN component parties look at things

from different angles ... when they become emotional, they become heroes for the party. That is when there is a clash of opinions."

Told that the problems between the BN Youth wings started when Umno vice-chief Khairy Jamaluddin made a racial statement, he said the matter had already been resolved.

On whether the movement will raise the NEP issue, he said: "Yes but I do not have the details."

Asked whether the issue of meritocracy and the teaching of mathematics and science in English will be discussed, Azimi said: "It won't be as the system was just introduced."

On the statement by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman that Bangsa Malaysia could create political instability, he said the youth movement would like to digest the remark first before making any comment.