

Dr M: We will study Wanita's plan

57/11/93
WANITA Umno has received an assurance from party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir that its call for better representation would be studied by the supreme council.

The movement has proposed its divisional leaders be given automatic delegate status to the general assembly.

Supreme council member Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the Wanita had asked the supreme council to review the party constitution.

"There are almost 800,000 Wanita members but our ratio in

terms of delegates at this assembly is 162 of the total 1,769 present.

"This is unfair. At divisional meetings, the Wanita always end up losing out in election of delegates because of intense jostling and other unhealthy practices.

"Since the Wanita role as stabilisers in the party has been acknowledged, we should be given more representation instead of only the 30 automatic Wanita representatives under existing regulations," she said.

Dr Siti Zaharah said the divisional elections were becoming

more intense and likened the contests to a wrestling match where the women members often ended up outside the ring when members "counter-negotiated".

She said the Wanita was not making unnecessary demands and only wanted to have a bigger say in the assembly, which she saw as an important decision-making platform in adopting policies, resolutions and election of leaders.

Under the present party constitution, the Youth and Wanita wings send 30 representatives each to the general assembly.