

'Reformasi' seeks legal status

By SHAHANAAZ SHER
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KUALA LUMPUR: The *reformasi* movement will decide on its leadership structure once it is registered, secretariat representative Abdul Malek Hussein said.

"All I can say is that developments are positive. Support has been very encouraging and we are working towards getting the movement registered," he said.

Abdul Malek, however, would not confirm whether Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail was part of the pro-tern committee which was trying to get the *reformasi*

movement registered.

"But she (Azizah) is the leader of the unofficial *reformasi* movement," he said, adding that once the movement was lawfully registered, it was up to members to decide on the leadership.

Abdul Malek declined to say whether the movement plans to set up a political party except to say it was seeking a legal entity.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said recently it was better for the *reformasi* movement to form a party and contest in elections rather than disrupt people's lives

through street demonstrations.

Abdul Malek said he would go to the Registrar of Societies today to look into procedures and requirements.

Umno Youth assistant secretary Zulfikri Alwi said if the *reformasi* movement did not register as a political party, it would be "missing a real and right opportunity to bring massive changes to the governance of the country which it seems to espouse"

He said the movement's grouses appeared to run gamut from petty to serious issues and did not appear to have a clear and unit-

ed mission.

Wanita MCA deputy chairman Dr Tan Yee Kew said there was no reason not to get the movement registered as a political party because registration would give it the legitimacy to talk about politics.

"They can then present their ideas and views of how to run the country to the people and convince voters on their programmes and ideology."

PAS Youth secretary Salehuddin Ayub said the *reformasi* movement should set up its political party first and then gauge whether there was support for it.