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Wanita Umno hopes to get more seats

JELI, Sat. - Wanita Umno hopes to field more women candidates in the next general election.

Its chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said curently fewer than 10 per cent of the parliamentary and State seats were held by leaders from the movement.

"We are now hoping that party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will consider fielding more candidates from the movement in the next general election ... perhaps an increase of 20 per cent," she said after launching the Jeli region Women's Day gathering at Sekolah Kebangsaan Jeli 2 today.

The gathering is organised by the Kelantan South Development Authourity (Kesedar).

Siti Zaharah said there was a need to provide more opportunities for women to contest.

"Dr Mahathir has acknowledged women as a positive force. We have many quality leaders in the movement who can contribute positively for the benefit of the people, party and the nation."

On Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's resignation as Umno Youth chief, Siti Zaharah said the matter would be decided by the party's supreme council.

"Zahid has explained his decision, so we have to wait for the (Umno) supreme council to decide.

"What is important is for us to ensure that in making decisions, they have to be consistent with the party's principles."

Earlier in her speech, Siti Zaharah, who is also Deputy Health Minister, advised women to give priority to their families' health.

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