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`Puteri chiefs may join supreme council'

PENANG, Mon. - Wanita Umno will propose that Puteri Umno's head and its deputy become members of the party's supreme council, its chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said today.

"We want them to become automatic members of the supreme council, once Puteri Umno is formed," she said. "We have always supported the Puteri Umno's formation and we are very serious about this proposal."

Rafidah, who is also International Trade and Industry Minister, said this to reporters after attending the Majlis Titisan Mesra with about 500 local Wanita Umno members and other Wanita Barisan Nasional members at the Caring Society Complex here.

She was asked if Puteri Umno, once formed, would pose a threat to Wanita Umno. "Certainly not," she said. "She said some quarters were ill-informed of Wanita Umno's stance on Puteri Umno or simply refused to understand it. With Puteri Umno, she argued, there would be more women in the supreme council.

"This is very good for all women members since we will have a bigger representation in the party," she said.

At another function here earlier, Rafidah said she would lead the Wanita movement to meet party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the Puteri Umno formation.

She said the movement would discuss, among other things, its proposals on the Puteri Umno's structure.

"It should cater to school-leavers and those up to the age of 30, including young professionals. Also, there should be Puteri Umno representatives at all levels of the party," she said.

For Wanita Umno, she said, every Wanita division chairman are also members of the their respective division's committee.

"So, we also propose that every Puteri Umno head be members of their respective division's committee.

"We are suggesting linkages for Puteri Umno so that it could perform effectively to help the party," she said.

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