

Power struggle brewing in Pahang Wanita Umno

Nst 30 MAR 2001

KUANTAN, Thurs. — All is not well in Pahang Wanita Umno as a power struggle is developing within.

Some of the 11 Wanita division chiefs are making an intense bid to oust State Wanita chief Maznah Mazlan, stating that they have lost confidence in her leadership.

It is learnt that they have submitted a memorandum to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and are seeking a meeting with national Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz to discuss the matter.

Maznah, who is a State Executive Councillor and chairman of the State's Women Affairs division (Hawa), was appointed by Rafidah who regained the Wanita national leadership from Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman in the party elections last year.

She succeeded Zaharah as the Pahang Wanita chief.

Pahang Umno chief Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob who said today that he was aware of this, has

dismissed the internal squabbles as having root in some members' "obsession for positions".

He said he would call them for a meeting at the right time.

"As the *bapak* (father) to all Umno members in the State, I will meet them if things get out of hand. But it will be better for them to resolve the dispute themselves," he said.

He said it was the work of "frustrated members who do not get what they want".

"Looking back, this is a follow-up to the Rafidah and Zaharah tussle," he said, pointing out that the problem would find no end.

"When the no-confidence votes get through, Maznah will have to step down.

"This will pave the way for somebody else to take over.

"If the successor is a State Assemblywoman, then she too will be eyeing Maznah's exco post and as Hawa chairman," he said.

Adnan, who is Pahang Menteri Besar, said, however, the internal problem in Pahang Wanita Umno

would not affect the State party.

He said the division Wanita chiefs who opposed Maznah initiated the no-confidence vote among themselves.

"The grassroots women members do not know anything although they are the ones who work hard and have been loyal to the party all the while. By right, the division Wanita chiefs should work hard instead of jostling for positions as they go up with the support of the grassroots.

"They do not consult the grassroots. Neither do they convene special meetings of the respective committees or delegates meeting to get a consensus.

"So, I view it as a personal thing. They do not care about the party. From my observation, self-interest instead of party interest reigned supreme among some of the Wanita chiefs," he said.

Adnan said one reason for the no-confidence vote was Maznah's reluctance to disburse the RM30,000 allocation to the respective division Wanita chiefs.