

Dr M: Puteri Umno no threat to Wanita

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IPOH: Puteri Umno, the new junior wing for women in Umno, is not a threat to the Wanita movement said party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

"We want new (women) members who are 35 years and below to choose whether to join Putri or Wanita," the Prime Minister said.

He said that Wanita Umno accepted Putri but felt the new Umno body should not recruit members who were already in the Wanita movement.

"If the younger members currently in Wanita are put in Putri, there will be no increase in the membership number (in Umno).

"That is why the Wanita chief (Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz) felt Putri should not take its younger members

and form another group," Dr Mahathir said at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport after his 24-hour visit here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a recent advice by Wanita Umno that Putri should not take its (Wanita Umno's) members.

The Prime Minister earlier met Umno branch and division members and had discussions with about 20 Perak Puteri Umno pro tem committee members.

Dr Mahathir said Puteri Umno must attract younger women to join the party and explain to them the party's struggles and traditions.

"These are the people who will be leaders when the present crop of leaders are old and of no use.

"Puteri Umno should open its doors to all — the educated, working girls and even those working in factories," he added.