

New role for actress Erra Fazira

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. -- Singer-cum-actress and former beauty queen Erra Fazira has now taken on a new role, in politics, as an appointed member of the Puteri Umno protem committee.

Her entry into politics was made official when Puteri Umno protem chief Azalina Othman Said hand-picked her for her new role.

Azalina announced the Puteri Umno protem committee after chairing the first Puteri Umno protem committee meeting at the Umno headquarters today.

Although Erra, whose real name is Fazira Wan Chik, is entering unfamiliar territory, she is nevertheless eager and excited over the prospect because she has always been interested in the country's political scene.

In fact, in her years of acting, never once did she take on a role

that smacked of politics. She was always cast in love stories as a singer or model.

The 27-year-old, who was present at the first Puteri Umno protem committee meeting today, said that she had always closely followed the country's political developments.

"When I was offered a place on the committee, I jumped at the opportunity. I think this will be good for me," she said, adding that an artiste could also contribute to the country's development.

Erra is taking her new role seriously, saying that her busy schedule would not be a hindrance to her commitment to Puteri Umno.

She said she would make Puteri Umno meetings a priority.

Erra said she has discussed the matter with Azalina and her colleagues and all had agreed to work out their schedules to accommo-

date each other.

"There is no pressure... whenever I have the time. I will give my full attention to party work."

On why she chose Umno instead of any other parties, she said: "I was brought up with Umno and I am confident about the party leadership, particularly president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad."

Erra also expressed her fear of not being able rise up to people's expectations, explaining that she was still learning.

With the right guidance from others in Puteri Umno, she hopes to be able to give her best to the party.

On the inclusion of Erra as one of the committee members, Azalina said: "It is an interesting mix of personalities with different backgrounds."