

SUN 26 JUN 2001

# More appointed posts likely for Puteri

By V. Gayathry

**PETALING JAYA, Mon:** Puteri Umno is expected to have more appointed posts than elected ones, with a restriction on tenure, to deter members from indulging in money politics.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today the regulations and procedures on the wing's structure are to allow it to focus on services and community programmes, instead of politics.

"Its format will be different from those of the Youth and Wanita and as I see it, Puteri wants to concentrate on its activities and services," he told reporters after opening MTUC's consumer awareness seminar.

"But these are still suggestions and input from other groups, especially the Youth and Wanita, will also be considered."

Muhyiddin said the management committee will deliberate on the proposed structure and format and several options will be given to the supreme council.

Puteri Umno pro tem head Azalina Othman Said told reporters at the party general assembly last week that a draft of the wing's constitution, proposing a mechanism to prevent money politics, has been submitted to Muhyiddin.

Muhyiddin said the wing has suggested that more posts are appointed rather than elected and a tenure should be included to give more members the opportunity to take up key positions.

"I hope to finalise the draft by next month, so that the wing can get on with its work

as many groups are still confused about its structure," Muhyiddin, who is also the domestic trade and consumer affairs minister, said.

The wing will be officially launched by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 3 and it expects to recruit some 26,000 members in its two-month pre-launch programmes.

The party is open to Malay women below the age of 35 and has pledged to focus on education, health, welfare and culture among women, as part of its agenda.