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# Words of praise for young Malay women from the PM

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By **Yusoff Ahmad**

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri:** If Wanita Umno saved the party from a greater election defeat through its staunch supporters, it is the young women who now save the Malays from losing places in universities.

If not for the studious young women, the university quota of 55% for Malays would have dropped to 40%, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Institutions of higher learning cannot compromise on entry with poor grades, Mahathir, who is Umno president, said when officially launching the Puteri Umno at the Putra World Trade Centre tonight.

Women, young or old, are noticeably more staunch and resilient in their studies, work and support for a cause and therefore it is

timely that Umno must have a back-up force for its Wanita wing.

"I would also like to remind you of some quarters crying out that Muslim women should not be doing as what the men do, especially in politics.

"However, women make a good half of some one billion Muslims in the world today and divorcing them from all but family duties is as good as halving the strength of Muslims in development," Mahathir said.

"I noticed that female Malay students are not easily swayed by incitement to go against the government and for that alone, they have excelled in studies filling nearly 70% places for the Malays in universities."

Mahathir promised that Wanita and the new Puteri wing will play an equal role and have the same privileges as the male counterpart in the party.