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DPM: More than one person identified for Puteri Umno head post

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - More than one person has been identified as the possible candidate for the Puteri Umno head post, said Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"There are some names ... one ... two ..., well a few names have been suggested and we will forward it to the party president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) for his approval.

"The final say lies with Dr Mahathir and we will accept his decision. I cannot reveal more details on the proposed candidates."

Abdullah, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, said this during a Press conference after chairing the party's management and disciplinary committee meeting at the party headquarters today.

During the supreme council meeting last Friday, the party had decided that the age limit for the head of Puteri Umno would be 40 while the movement's members must not be more than 35 years old.

Dr Mahathir, when asked if this meant the often-touted supreme council member Azalina Othman Said, 37, would be made head of the movement's pro-tem committee, said: "We don't know that yet, but this would be the principle which we would follow."

The establishment of Puteri Umno was announced by the supreme council on Feb 10. On Feb 22, the council decided that the movement's pro-tem committee would be made up of 20 representatives, seven to be appointed by the council and the rest by the party's State liaison committees.

Abdullah said Puteri Umno was among the issues discussed during the meeting today.

He declined to comment when asked if the names suggested comprised the party's supreme council member or a Wanita Umno executive council member.

Apart from Azalina, another possible candidate could likely be the only Wanita Umno executive council member who is below 40, Datin Suhanie Deraman.

On the names to be submitted by the State liaison committee to sit as committee members in Puteri Umno, Abdullah said the process was on-going. "We would accept whoever is suggested by the State liaison committees."

Abdullah said the meeting also discussed the branch meetings being held this month.

"We have received several complaints on misconduct during the meetings including about members who have paid their membership fee but denied entry to the meeting.

"All these complaints would be submitted to the party's recently formed disciplinary board."

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