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Movement pledges to play leading role in party struggle

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Puteri Umno represented a challenge to the younger generation of women to come forward and contribute to the future well-being of the country, said its chief Azalina Othman Said.

She said the wing provided an excellent platform for young women to assist Umno in its decades-long struggle for the betterment of race, religion and the country.

Speaking before thousands of flag-waving Puteri members from throughout the country at the movement's official launch tonight, Azalina led them in pledging the movement's undying support to play a leading role in Umno's struggle.

"I wish to inform the president that as of today, we have roped in 84,372 young women from the various States who strongly believe and are ever willing to spearhead Umno's struggle," Azalina said to a thunderous applause.

"Let's pledge that as the younger generation which has not forgotten the history of Umno's struggle, we should not forget the deeds of Umno, we should not forget that the future strength of Umno is our responsibility, we should not forget that we are the mechanism for change."

Present were party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who later launched the four-month-old movement, deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and other Umno leaders.

In her brief but inspiring speech, Azalina also called on Umno not to view its members as "young kids on the block", as they were very serious in wanting to carry the Umno torch.

A Puteri member recited a poem which among others promised that the movement would always be aware of its role for the betterment of the community, and that it would not be ignorant.

The Puteri Tidak Lupa poem was later put in a traditional gift-box and handed to Dr Mahathir.

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