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Muhyiddin: It must not contradict constitution

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Proposals on the structure of Puteri Umno must not contradict the party's constitution, Umno amendment committee chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

Muhyiddin, who is also party vice-president, said the committee would come up with standard procedures and regulations to enable the movement to be officially launched next month, as planned by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

(The committee deliberated on the matter later today.)

Muhyiddin said the committee would find a solution to implement the structure without having to amend the party's constitution and would also look into the various proposals that had been submitted.

"We will also get feedback from other parties before we decide on the draft format of Puteri Umno to be submitted to the supreme council," Muhyiddin, who is also Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said after launching the Wanita MCA consumer awareness programme here.

He said the committee would have to look for ways to ensure that there was no delay in the implementation.

"If we were to amend the constitution, we would have to hold a special assembly and this would take time.

"So, the most suitable approach is by formulating a structure which does not necessitate any amendment to the constitution."

Muhyiddin said Puteri Umno pro-tem committee chairman Azalina Othman Said had submitted the draft proposal to the committee.

He said the movement's format was different from the standard format, adding that the committee would be getting views from Wanita Umno as well.

"But, we will study the proposals submitted by Puteri Umno including that all women below 35 who register as Umno members will automatically be its members.

"I'm sure Wanita will not agree to this proposal. This needs to be thoroughly looked into to benefit all quarters.

"I've met Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and she said they have some ideas."

Muhyiddin said Puteri Umno in its draft constitution, besides proposing the automatic membership for all women below 35, also wanted the membership to start only at divisional and not branch level.

But automatic membership is against the party constitution, which states that women above 18 will automatically become Wanita members.

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