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Nationwide recruitment

Hizreen Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Puteri Umno pro tem leader Azalina Mohd Said said a nationwide recruitment drive targeting some 1.5 million Malay women will be launched soon.

She said the national-level campaign would be held soon, after which the pro tem committee members would visit every State to recruit members.

"We will try to reach young women in the rural and urban areas," Azalina said after chairing the first Puteri Umno pro tem committee meeting at the Umno headquarters.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob was also present.

The setting up of Puteri Umno was announced by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 10 last year.

The Umno supreme council had recently appointed Azalina, 37, as Puteri Umno pro tem head.

Azalina also announced the appointments of pro tem central committee members.

They are Fazira Wan Chik or Erra Fazira, Noor Liza Abu Hasan, Hamizah Mat Tahir and Sharifah Syahirah Syed Sheikh.

Eleven State Puteri Umno pro tem chiefs were also named. Only the Pahang and Kedah chiefs have yet to be appointed.

The 11 are Bibi Shazliza Mohamad Talib (Negri Sembilan), Norasmah Mohamad Nawawi (Perak), Rosfinah Rahmat (Malacca), Hazlina Jalil (Johor), Azlina Mehtab Mohamad Ishaq (Penang), Nordiana Shafie (Terengganu), Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin (Sabah), Nora Azmin Mohamad Radzuan (Selangor) Azlinda Mohamad Rashad (Federal Territory), Norlina Ahmad (Kelantan) and Marzita Mansor (Perlis).

Also named were assistant secretary Noraini Ahmad, assistant treasurer Raja Emylia Raja Lope Ahmad and information chief Mastina Abdul Hamid.

Azalina said since the movement's executive committee members were in Umno, they would have to, among others, undergo induction and spiritual upliftment courses on the party ideals and general elections.

Asked about public response to Puteri Umno, she said many were keen to join but did not know how to go about it.

Azalina said they would be making courtesy calls on Dr Mahathir, deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, as well as the Youth and Wanita wings' chiefs, Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein and Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.