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Umno-Puteri

PUTERI UMNO USING ASSEMBLY TO HAVE BETTER GRASP OF UMNO IDEALS

By: Norhayati Muda

KUALA LUMPUR, JUN 19 (Bernama) -- The four-month-old Puteri Umno is making the most of its observer status at this year's Umno general assembly to have good grasp of the Umno cause and make its presence in the party felt, said its pro-tem leader Azalina Othman Said.

The 55th general assembly offered Puteri Umno members the best opportunity to introduce and endear themselves to delegates from throughout the country especially party veterans and stalwarts, she said.

"Puteri Umno will have a good look at the faces of the leaders, delegates and indirectly fathom the strength that Umno has. This will make Puteri Umno members appreciate that they are not alone and will one day form the faces in that big picture," she told Bernama in an interview at her office here today.

Azalina said the gathering would also enliven Puteri Umno's 50-strong observer team on the nitty-gritty of conducting a general assembly, such as tabling of motions.

The Umno Supreme Council approved the establishment of Puteri Umno on Feb 10 this year, opening its membership to women below 35 years old. The council set the age limit for the wing's leader at 40.

The formation of the party's newest wing was aimed at wooing more of the younger generation to embrace Umno but along the way this drew criticisms even from quarters from within the party itself.

These criticisms, which Puteri Umno treated as inevitable challenges, would only spur its members all the more to prove their capabilities in realising the movement's objectives, she said.

"I reckon that the response towards Puteri Umno is encouraging and this goes to prove that I have been able to accomplish my tasks reasonably well," she said.

Asked on the perceived incompatibility between Puteri Umno and Wanita Umno, Azalina blamed irresponsible elements for creating such a picture.

"Only the detractors would wish to see Puteri and Wanita not getting along well," she said.

Azalina argued that since Puteri Umno was still in formative stage, it would be difficult for it to have a ready solid structure for cooperation with the party's long-established women's wing.

On Puteri Umno's plans after the general assembly, Azalina said it would concentrate on its pre-launch road-show nation-wide.

The Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to formally launch Puteri Umno on Aug 3 at the PWTC here.

"We shall kick off the road-show in the Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory on JUN 24," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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