

Umno AGM to formalise Puteri wing

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno will amend its constitution after its annual general assembly in June to formalise Puteri Umno, said party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"After the amendments, it will be accepted by all the branches and divisions," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at PWTC yesterday.

Abdullah said the only difference between Puteri Umno and other wings in the party, after the amendments, was its leaders would not be accorded the post of

vice-head at the branch, division or supreme council levels.

He said the party would not encourage Puteri members to hold other posts in Umno.

Abdullah also said a special state-level committee would be created to monitor Umno branch meetings.

He said all problems pertaining to the meetings should be referred to the committee.

Abdullah also said the party had endorsed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech on *ulamaks* (religious scholars) in New York recently.

"Umno feels the Prime Minister was never anti-*ulamak*."

"The party knows the measures and approaches made by the Prime Minister to develop the *ummah* (Muslim community) in Malaysia," he added.

Dr Mahathir had said in New York on Feb 4 that Malay Muslims in the country had refused to give power to self-appointed *ulamaks*, who were not only incompetent in development but also administration.

Some opposition leaders, however, have branded his speech as anti-*ulamak*.