

# More clout for Puteri Umno

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## Movement to be on par with women and youth wings

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Puteri Umno will be another entity in Umno - on par with the party's women and youth wings, and its chief will be one of the party's vice-presidents.

Umno will amend its constitution next month to accommodate the uplifting of Puteri Umno's status as well as to allow it to conduct elections at division and branch levels.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the decision was made at the party's supreme council meeting here yesterday.

"We need to give Puteri Umno equal status as it is part of the party's wing. There is no reason why we can't give

them the same treatment as the youth and wanita movements," he told a press conference after chairing the meeting.

On the Palestine talks on Wednesday attended by PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor, Mahathir said Umno welcomes cooperation from PAS but this does not mean that "we have the same views on all matters."

He said there are differences between the two parties and as long as this barrier exists, "it is difficult for us to unite."

He said if there are efforts to unite the Malays, there must be a basis.

Asked if this was an opportunity for Umno and PAS to come to an understanding, Mahathir said: "Yes, it can work out if they are willing."

"There are areas probably where we should not fight each other, like in edu-

cation and acquiring knowledge, unless they say this is not important and it is better to be stupid," he said.

Meanwhile, party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the amendments will be made on June 20 in a special assembly during the party's annual general assembly.

He said elections will be held for all positions and levels in Puteri Umno once the amendments are approved and adopted, adding that this will be conducted together with Puteri's first assembly and its official formation before the end of the year.

Abdullah also announced that the supreme council approved the setting up of 44 new branches and will conduct a campaign to recruit more members, especially for the Youth and Wanita movements.