

27 OCT 2002
Puteri-Contest
52 TO CONTEST IN PUTERI UMNO'S MAIDEN ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Three candidates are vying for the Puteri Umno permanent chairman's post while two will run for the deputy permanent chairman's post at the movement's inaugural assembly on Friday.

Election Committee Chairman Tan Sri Kamarul Ariffin said 47 aspirants would contest for the 20 executive council member posts.

He said Bibi Sunita Sakandar Khan, Farida Kee Mui Ling and Rohani Abu Hassan are the contestants for the permanent chairman's post while Marlilyn Abdul Samad and Sulasi Haji Mahadi are the aspirants for the deputy chairman's post.

"Every delegate will be given three ballot papers to make their choice and 160 polling booths will be set up," he told reporters after the drawing of numbers for the candidates.

Azalina Othman Said and Noraini Ahmad have won the Puteri Umno's chief and deputy chief's post uncontested.

Kamarul said the results are expected to be announced by 7pm.

Asked on Azalina's status who is being investigated by the police for alleged misappropriation of the movement's funds and properties, he said the matter was not under the committee's jurisdiction.

He said the committee's task was to scrutinise whether the candidates are eligible to contest or otherwise.

Umno Executive Secretary Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said Azalina and Noraini would be formally announced as the movement's head and vice-head after the election.

He said Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would open the assembly.

He said the 165 divisional meetings that ended on Oct 15 went on smoothly except in Pengkalan Chepa, Kelantan.

The divisional meeting would be re-convened by Umno headquarters on Tuesday as the supreme council was not satisfied with the conduct of the five branch meetings in the division, he said.

He said the assembly would start with the movement's pro tem chief Azalina delivering her welcome speech followed by the opening address by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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