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`Don't sensationalise Puteri Umno polls'

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Action should be taken immediately against groups in Puteri Umno which sensationalise the movement's elections to the point where its image is tarnished, an Umno Youth leader said today.

Umno Youth deputy head Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir said he was worried that sensationalising the movement's elections in November would discourage young women from joining the wing.

"Puteri Umno was formed to attract young women into Umno. Anything which discourages them from entering Puteri Umno, such as sensationalising the elections, should be dealt with early on," he said after chairing the movement's management meeting at its headquarters today.

Aziz was commenting on the possibility that personal attacks against contenders in the movement's elections would mar its election process.

His comments came a day after his chief, Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, said that Umno leaders should stop endorsing any of the candidates for the top post of the movement, adding that it would affect the conduct of the wing's elections.

The movement's pro-tem chief, Azalina Othman Said, has declared her intentions of contesting the number one post, while it was reported that she would be challenged by the movement's former Information chief Mastina Abdul Hamid and another member Raihan Suleiman @ Sulaiman Palestin.

Aziz also said Azalina should not be worried about being challenged as her track record in developing the movement spoke for itself and all her ExcOs and State chiefs had expressed their support for her.

"She should not worry about personal attacks, either, as it is part and parcel of being in politics.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gets personal attacks day and night, but he does not worry about them."

Aziz also said Umno Youth has formed a task force led by Exco member Abdul Rauf Yusof to register those who are above 21 as voters.