

31 OCT 2002

Puteri-Elections

PUTERI UMNO LEADERSHIP LINE-UP TO BE DECIDED TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Puteri Umno, which officially became Umno's latest wing during the party's General Assembly last June 20, will hold its inaugural assembly tomorrow, with the top two posts already decided without any contest.

The assembly, to be held at Dewan Merdeka, Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), will be opened by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at 3pm.

Azalina Othman Said and Noraini Ahmad have been elected unopposed as chief and vice-chief of the movement respectively. Azalina was nominated by all the 165 divisions throughout the country while Noraini has won uncontested following the withdrawal of two other nominees.

The assembly will see 47 Puteri members contesting 20 Exco posts.

Apart from this, the permanent chairperson's post will see a three-way contest while the deputy permanent chairperson's post will see a straight fight.

The assembly, which will be attended by 660 delegates, will begin with the opening address by Dr Mahathir, followed by a speech by Azalina, the movement's pro tem chief.

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Supreme Council members and Youth and Wanita Exco members will also attend the opening.

Before the elections start at 5pm, a briefing will be given by Elections Committee chairman Tan Sri Kamarul Ariffin Mohd Yassin.

The official results are expected to be known before 7pm.

Puteri Umno was set up to boost support for Umno from among the professional group and younger generation.

Puteri's membership is open to Malay women aged between 18 and 35 years, but the age limit for the movement's chief is 40.

Puteri was formalised as an Umno entity after the party's General Assembly unanimously approved seven amendments to the party constitution.

Puteri, which was launched on Aug 3, 2001, will be administered along the lines of its Youth and Wanita counterparts.

-- BERNAMA

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