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Education and religion take centre stage

EDUCATION and religious issues took centre stage at this year's Puteri Umno convention as all the three representatives who presented their working papers and another nine who debated them touched on these issues.

The movement's information chief, Bibi Sharliza Mohd Khalid, in her paper, Puteri Umno's Direction Towards the Globalisation Era said that members of the new wing must equip themselves with knowledge so that they could help the Government to improve the standard of education among the people.

"In our country, the love and quest for knowledge is still low, especially among the Malays.

"We have to keep in mind that the people who do not have the knowledge will be left behind in the globalisation era."

Federal Territory Puteri Umno chief Azlinda Mohd Rashad who debated the paper said that the movement members must analyse carefully all the new education policies being implemented by the Government and find ways to help the people understand and adapt themselves with the new changes.

She said Puteri Umno supported the move to introduce English as a medium of instruction for Mathematics and Science subjects at all levels as it could help improve the standard of English among Malaysian students.

Pahang pro-tem chief Shahaniza Shamsuddin, in her paper, The History of Umno Struggle: Continued Survival of a Race, said that proficiency in English should be made as one of the criteria for the selection to enter public and private institutions of higher learning.

Kedah representative Zuraini Kamal who debated the paper said that the Puteri members must help students in rural areas to excell in their studies.

Asiah Ayob of Johor Puteri Umno said that other States should emulate the Johor Government's effort to ensure that every Muslim student enters sekolah agama rakyat (peoples religious school) from the primary level.

Meanwhile, Terengganu Puteri Umno pro-tem chief Nordiana Shafie in her paper, The Roles of Young Muslim Women in Politics from the Perspective of Islam, argued that Islam had never restricted women from being involved in politics or acquiring knowledge.

She said the history of Islam also showed that women had played important roles in politics and development of the ummah.

Perlis representative Marzita Mansor in debating the paper said that Muslim women in Malaysia could now help others as they had already put themselves in respected positions.

Malacca representative Mas Elmiyati Shamsuddin said there was nothing in the Quran which prohibited women from politics.

Therefore, she said Puteri Umno members must help party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad clear the misconceptions on Islam deliberately propagated by the Opposition, especially Pas.

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