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Azalina: Puteri members not intimidated by threat

PENDANG, Sun. - Mai raih undi kat kami, hangpa berani mai, kami patah kaki hangpa, warned a voice from inside a Pas markas (operation centre) in Banggol Petai, Pendang to a group of Puteri Umno members passing by.

Despite warning made in the northern dialect, the girls who are from Pahang understood it well.

Fearing for their safety, they walked swiftly away and lodged a police report at the Pendang police station.

The warning translates to mean "Come try to woo our votes, if you dare to come, we will break your legs," has been classified as criminal intimidation by the police.

Investigations are underway.

This was just one incident. Puteri Umno is expecting to face more as campaigning is now reaching its peak.

There are already serious ones - from an elderly man wearing the serban (headgear) chasing them with a parang to being victim of a flasher - since they started campaigning for Barisan Nasional candidates in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state constituencies.

"We came across small children showing vulgar signs to us and their mothers just laughed away," said Puteri Umno pro-tem chief Azalina Othman who related the incident, which she described as unhealthy.

But being what they are - young, enthusiastic and resilient - Puteri members are undeterred.

They had come to Pendang and Anak Bukit to ensure BN's victory and would not allow such intimidations, or the roughing out they have to endure, kill their spirit.

They know deep inside that they are under attack because they are doing a good job and a threat to the opposition.

"We are here to ensure victory as we want to give a parting gift to the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad). We will work hard till the end," said a determined Azalina.

"I talked to my girls about the attacks on us, but they did not complain much or said they want to go home," she added.

Most Puteri members are "seasoned campaigners".