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Forward grouses to committee, members told

BUKIT KAYU HITAM, Fri. - Puteri Umno members should have forwarded their grouses about the movement's leadership to the party's management committee instead of lodging police reports, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"In Umno we don't go for police reports. If we have reports to make, we go to the management committee ... I think Puteri (members) still don't understand this," he said when asked to comment on Puteri Umno members lodging a police report against the movement's pro-tem chief Azalina Othman Said.

Dr Mahathir said this after opening Asian Composites Manufacturing Sdn Bhd plant here.

When told that the police reports concerned misappropriation and mismanagement of properties and funds of the movement, the Umno president said: "Even if the reports concern misappropriation, the party can investigate it. If you report, we are not going to side anybody."

Dr Mahathir added that Umno did not want those who misappropriated funds to become leaders in the party.

Asked whether the party leadership would allow the Puteri Umno's top post to be contested, Dr Mahathir said Puteri members were free to contest but it must be kept in line with party tradition.

On whether Puteri Umno members who were also members of Wanita Umno were eligible to contest for the posts in Puteri Umno, he said: "That shouldn't be."

Asked whether the party would investigate the allegations, Dr Mahathir said the party would still investigate "but we will have to explain to the members that when they have a grouse they should go to the party and not to the police".

On Wednesday, Puteri Umno member Zalilah @ Elly Yusof lodged a report at the Brickfields police station over alleged misappropriation and mismanagement of properties and funds of the movement.

Meanwhile in Kuala Lumpur, Federal police commercial crimes division sources said they would begin investigating into the police report on Monday.

Azalina refuted the allegations, saying that they were baseless.

Dr Mahathir, when asked whether the Government would amend the Election Act to address the problem of shifting of voters, said according to the Act, all voters registered previously had to be accepted.

"(There are cases of) voters who voted in 1990 but could not vote in the 1995 or 1999 general elections.

"Obviously somebody is fiddling with the voters' list so how can we accept list that has been fiddled with," he added.