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Movement is ready to be a key player in national politics

IF there is one word to describe Puteri Umno's level of preparedness to plunge into serious politics, it surely is "READY".

Despite its infancy, Puteri Umno which will be formalised as Umno's youngest wing today has made clear its intention to become a key player in national politics.

The members are committed to Umno's struggle and one cannot be deceived by their age or white and sweet pink uniform.

The movement has also not stopped working since its inception a year ago and has untiringly proven itself as an effective component of Umno.

Under its pro-tem chief Azalina Othman Said and guidance from top party leaders, especially party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Puteri Umno has played its roles well.

Party leaders and veterans are concerned to see their baby bloom into a strong and respectable wing and carry the burden of continuing Umno's struggle.

One interested party is Datuk Paduka Saleha Mohd Ali, a founder member of Kaum Ibu (now Wanita Umno). In a wheelchair in the front row, she intently followed the inaugural Puteri Umno convention with deep interest, shedding tears during moments when she was overcome with emotion.

Her sister and the Prime Minister's wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, also sat throughout the afternoon session.

One thing for sure, Azalina does not seem to be affected by some serious allegations about her sexuality and the continuous attacks on her leadership.

Response from the floor to her fiery speech before some 1,200 delegates and observers at the convention only further confirmed that support for her is far from eroding.

There have been bouquets and brickbats for Puteri Umno. But, its members, now hitting the 34,000 mark, are of course, not letting the praises get to their heads.

They are also taking the attacks in their stride, as to them, there are more important things to address, like fulfilling its pledge to become a change agent to the future Malay generation.

Puteri Umno's increasing strength no doubt is giving the Opposition the shivers. Their leaders have openly recognised Puteri Umno's growing strength, saying the young movement is becoming a threat.

Undoubtedly, Puteri Umno has grown fast to become an effective component of Umno.

Young and energetic, Puteri Umno members has given that much-needed push to many in the party to work hard to maintain Umno's relevance in Malay politics and outdo its arch-rival Pas.

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