

11 AUG 2002  
Azalina-Seat

PUTERI UMNO NOT EXPECTING SEATS IN POLLS, SAYS AZALINA

JOHOR BAHRU, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Puteri Umno pro tem head Azalina Othman Said said today the movement is not expecting any seat in the next general election despite the creation of new parliamentary and state constituencies under the redelineation of electoral boundaries.

She said the matter did not arise as Puteri Umno was still in its infancy and there was still much to learn.

"The main task of Puteri Umno is to be the party machinery. We've no intention to grab any post," she told reporters after opening the formative meetings to set up Puteri Umno wings in Umno branches under the Johor Baharu division, here.

Azalina said the movement left it to the Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership to decide on whether to allocate seats for Puteri Umno.

"Most importantly, Puteri Umno must be prepared for the general election and to work hard for BN's victory, especially Umno," she said.

Commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's warning to Chinese extremist groups not instigate racial sentiments among the Chinese community on the use of English to teach science and mathematics, she hoped BN component parties could play a role to explain the issue clearly.

She said racial issues, if allowed to continue, could lead to a repeat of the racial clashes in 1969.

"We all have agreed that this incident will not happen again. That's why we formed BN to ensure peace and stability," she said.

Earlier, in her speech, Azalina reminded Puteri Umno members wishing to contest in branch and divisional meetings to carry out healthy campaigns and avoid money politics.

"We want to project a clean image among Puteri Umno members," she said, adding that the movement had 92,045 members now.

This showed the younger generation had trust and confidence in Umno as reflected in the increasing membership, including in Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah.

-- BERNAMA  
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