

02/11/2002

Azalina, Noraini in full control

AZALINA Othman Said and Noraini Ahmad were declared Puteri Umno's first chief and deputy at the movement's inaugural general assembly in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The announcement was made by Umno deputy permanent chairman Datuk Seri Onn Ismail, who chaired the proceedings at the Putra World Trade Centre.

He said that there would not be any contest for both posts as Azalina and Noraini had both won uncontested.

The assembly, which was attended by 660 delegates and more than 2,000 observers, was officially launched by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Also present were deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, vice-presidents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, information chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob and Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and her deputy Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil did not attend the assembly as they are abroad.

They were represented by Wanita Umno information chief Datin Paduka Seripah Norli Syed Hussein and executive council member Datuk Azizah Abdul Samad.

The proceedings went on smoothly.

After Dr Mahathir and Azalina delivered their speeches followed by a tea break, the delegates were briefed by the Umno election committee headed by Tan Sri Kamarul Arrifin on the voting process before they cast their votes.

Kamarul also announced that five candidates withdrew from contesting for the committee posts.

He said they submitted their withdrawal letters after the balloting for the order of the candidates in the ballot papers was made.

They were Che Sabarina Mohamad, Siti Rahmah Abd Rashid, Norwana Suleiman, Rosliza Ali and Nora Azmin Radzuan.

Kamarul reminded the delegates on the importance of observing voting instructions.

Also present were deputy chairman Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee, secretary Datuk Zaki Tun Azmi. Other members present were Tan Sri Elyas Omar and Tan Sri (R) Zain Hashim.

Balloting for the permanent chairman, deputy and 20 executive council members went on smoothly.

Balloting started at 5.30pm.

The last delegate handed over her ballot shortly after 6.30pm.