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Muhyiddin-Umno

UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CHART ANOTHER MILESTONE

By: Ahmad Kamil Tahir

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- The Umno general assembly beginning Thursday will witness yet another milestone in efforts to increase participation by the younger generation.

It will discuss the resolution to amend the party constitution to structure its new wing -- Puteri Umno.

Undoubtedly, the presence of Puteri Umno opens a new horizon for the younger generation to participate actively in the party besides becoming the second echelon to carry on Umno's struggles.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who will table the resolution, said the amendment aimed to ensure that Puteri Umno was accorded the proper status within the party structure.

"Hopefully the resolution will get full support because what is important after this is to mobilise the entity as a new one that can attract the attention of young women to join Umno via the new channel," he said in an interview with Bernama.

Muhyiddin, who is also Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said there was growing support from the younger generation for Umno.

"This is because they accept the fact that Umno has the capacity to look closely at their problems, as well as the importance of the role played by the young generation in the struggles of the Malays and society," he said.

This was also largely prompted by the capabilities of the young leaders in the Youth, Wanita and Puteri wings of Umno in looking into issues of importance to the younger generation, he said.

He said the amendments also aimed to determine the position of Puteri in the various party levels from the branch right up to the general assembly and the supreme council, as well as the status of the Puteri leader such as the proposal to place the Puteri leader on par with the vice-president, vice-head at the divisional level and so on.

Asked whether those who were members of Puteri should also register as Umno members, Muhyiddin said the issue did not arise.

"Whoever is a member of the Puteri, Wanita and Youth movements, he or she must first of all become an Umno member...and the way is that they apply to become Umno member (first) and then they decide whether to join Pemuda (Youth) or in case of a woman, there are two options, either Wanita or Puteri.

"There is no question of duplication, acceptance or rejection. This is emphasised in the constitution through the procedures to be introduced," he said.

On the general assembly, Muhyiddin said it was the most important party activity each year to discuss Umno's direction, and besides listening to the message of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president, the views of members on the various issues were also given attention.

Asked what he expected from the general assembly this time in generating strength for the party in facing the next general election, Muhyiddin said: "This opportunity must be utilised by the delegates to voice the aspiration and opinions of party members especially at the grassroots, divisional and state levels.

"Conventions at the state level had been held and numerous issues pertaining to the privileges of the Malays, the interests of the Malays and

country as a whole were highlighted and given attention to by party members," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AKT AZZ RON AO