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Abdullah-Puteri

PUTERI UMNO WANTS AZALINA TO LEAD, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today congratulated Azalina Othman Said for getting the nominations of all the 165 Puteri Umno divisions to lead the movement.

Abdullah, who is also Umno deputy president, said the nominations showed that the Puteri Umno members wanted Azalina, who is now the pro tem chief, to continue leading the movement.

He told reporters this at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang after seeing off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir who left for a six-day visit to India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Azalina won the post unopposed after the last three Puteri Umno divisions to hold their delegates meetings -- Marudu, Kapar and Kuala Selangor -- nominated her yesterday, bringing her total to 165 nominations.

Four others who had offered to contest the post -- Mastina Abdul Hamid, Raihan Sulaiman, Mazibah Mohamed Zin and Umi Hafilda Ali -- did not receive any nomination.

Azalina, who was also present, thanked the members for their confidence in her to lead the movement.

"It is wonderful because (I) did not expect to get 100 per cent," she said when approached by reporters.

She said that the accusations hurled at her would not weaken her spirit to continue the movement's struggle.

On the movement's elections, slated for Nov 1, she expressed the hope that the more than 600 delegates would vote in people who were responsible and could perform as leaders.

Asked whether she would feel more comfortable working with certain individuals, she said: "What's important is that she can work and is responsible. If (she) wants the glamour and position, then it'll be difficult."

The Puteri Umno vice-chief's post will be contested by its pro tem secretary, Noriani Ahmad who received 133 nominations, Pahang pro tem chief Shahaniza Shamsuddin (19) and Penang pro tem chief Azlina Mehtab (13).

Azalina said the movement would concentrate on the general election after its elections.

-- BERNAMA

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