

18 JUN 2003

Umno-Puteri (Azalina)

EVERY PUTERI MEMBER TO BE TRANSLATED AS ONE VOTE FOR BN, SAYS AZALINA

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Puteri Umno, which held its first general assembly here today, is determined to translate every member of the movement as one vote for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the next general election.

Its leader, Azalina Othman Said, said that the membership of the movement, which now totalled 121,842, was an indication of the response and acceptance of the young target group in the country.

As such, she called on Puteri members to make their presence felt and to ensure that they were registered as voters.

"As far as the Puteri is concerned, its membership reflected the strength of the party. Rightfully, every Puteri member can be translated as one vote for the Barisan Nasional," she said in her maiden speech at the assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

She said that their failure to vote would result in efforts to ensure that Umno remains in power were futile.

"If we fail to vote in the next election, we will be wasting a chance to give a mandate to our own party. In fact, we will be failing to fulfil our responsibility and our very basic right in a democracy," she said.

Azalina said that Puteri also pledged to accord priority to the general election by upholding the highest level of discipline.

She said that throughout the period, instances of individual interest or lobbying for positions should not occur in the ranks of Puteri Umno as all actions of its members could be turned into an issue to be linked to Umno.

"We should always be cautious in our all actions so as not to be caught in the trap set by the opposition," he said.

In this respect, she said, the election machinery at the grass-root level should be identified and mobilised to win the hearts of the people which was the most effective strategy.

"The principle subscribed by this generation of women, to be conscientious and united, loyal and prepared to serve should always be upheld and embraced," she said.

Azalina also reminded Puteri members to be loyal to the leadership, essential to ensure the party's strength which depended on the unity of its members.

She also said that Puteri was confident that deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who will be taking over from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president, would excel in the performance of his duties.

In the context of the Umno leadership, she said, those taking over would continue in the pursuit of the agenda in the interest of race and nation.

"We have adopted a tradition of transition of power which takes place in a most harmonious environment," she said.

She said that even though the move by Dr Mahathir to setp down was accepted with a heavy heart, Umno members must respect the wishes of the leader who knew very well what was suitable for the party at the right moment.

A total of 625 delegates are attending the one-day assembly.

-- BERNAMA

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