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Umno-Azalina

FOCUS ON GENERAL ELECTION, NOT PARTY POSTS, SAYS PUTERI CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- Puteri Umno chief Azalina Othman Said today advised members to channel their efforts towards preparations for the next general election instead of thinking about bidding for party posts.

She said Puteri members should defer any intention to jostle for party posts, at least until the general election was over.

It was important for members to concentrate on the general election to ensure a Barisan Nasional victory, including in opposition-held Kelantan and Terengganu, she said.

"We understand the democratic process but we request those hoping to bid for posts to postpone such intentions to enable us to concentrate on the general election," she told reporters after chairing the movement's exco meeting in conjunction with the Umno General Assembly which begins tomorrow.

"There is no point in securing posts in the party if we fail to gain political power in constituencies," she said.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in an interview with Mingguan Malaysia yesterday, expressed fears that there could be a scramble for the Umno deputy president's post when he retires in October.

Dr Mahathir has named his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, to succeed him in both the party and the government.

Azalina said Dr Mahathir's concerns over a possible power struggle should be recognised by party members.

"I think Puteri understands that very well," she said.

Puteri Umno now has 138,000 members.

-- BERNAMA

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