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MAHATHIR: SOME UMNO MEMBERS USING PUTERI TO CAMPAIGN

SEREMBAN, May 15 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there are groups within Umno who try to use the Puteri Umno movement to campaign for their own political interest.

He was commenting on the statement by Puteri Umno head Azalina Othman Said who asked some party veterans not to show bad examples such as lobbying, indulging in money politics and jostling for power, to the younger generation, particularly Puteri Umno members.

"She (Azalina) does not want Puteri to be used for campaigning," he said, when asked to comment on Azalina's statement, after attending the wedding reception of Syazrena Abdul Rafei, 25, the daughter of a staff of the Prime Minister's Department, Maznah Bahari, and Lt Kol (Rtd) Abdul Rafei Abdul Khatab at Taman Bukit Chedang, near here today.

Yesterday the press reported Azalina as saying that there were Umno veterans who were teaching Puteri members on undesirable culture in Umno such as lobbying and jostling for power.

Asked on the existence of splinter groups in Umno who were trying to break up the party as disclosed by Umno Information Chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob recently, Dr Mahathir said such groups were not that many.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, spent about 40 minutes at the reception.

Syazrena, a Bank Negara executive, married Azli Azmin Abdullah, 26, an executive with the Samsung Company in Seremban.

-- BERNAMA

APG RON AO