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Umno-Azalina

PUTERI TO FOCUS ON NATIONAL ISSUES AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By: Kuzaimah Idris

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- Puteri Umno will table issues on education, religion, the economy and social problems at the party's 57th general assembly tomorrow, said the movement's head Azalina Othman.

She said the resolutions to be tabled and debated would give an understanding to the delegates so that they could explain these issues to members at the divisional and branch levels.

In an interview with Bernama here, Azalina said Puteri Umno would not bring any special resolution but would concentrate on national issues, government policies and preparation for the general election.

She said her speech would touch on the role of the movement as a new entity in Umno in facing the next general election.

"My speech will touch on the role of Puteri as a new wing within Umno, the emphasis on computerisation and moves by the movement to attract the young generation, particularly young Malay women, to vote in the next general election," she said.

Puteri Umno will send 640 delegates to the general assembly, the first time the movement is participating in the Umno assembly after it was accepted as a new Umno wing last year.

Azalina said Puteri Umno was also not expecting Umno leaders and members to table a motion to persuade Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to change his mind about retiring.

She said Umno members must accept the fact that there would be a transition of power and they should continue the party's struggles to achieve a big win for Umno and the Barisan Nasional (BN) at the next general election.

"But for Puteri, we are sad because we don't have enough time to be with an exceptional Malay leader like the Umno president (Dr Mahathir)," she said.

Asked on the general election, Azalina said the movement would not demand that its members be nominated as candidates but would leave it to the leadership to decide.

She said if the members were not picked as candidates, Puteri Umno would still continue to serve and champion the cause of Umno and BN.

"If we are selected, we say thank you, if we are not nominated, we will continue with the cause, we don't ask for position in the party," she said.

Puteri Umno, she said, would activate various election programmes such as the special election unit and the Puteri social service which would begin next month and prepare its members mentally and emotionally for the election.

Puteri Umno now has 138,000 members.

Azalina said the challenge faced by the movement now was to ensure that the young generation would come out to vote for the BN in the coming general election.

She said Puteri would also have no problems working with and taking instructions from Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who would assume the posts of Prime Minister and Umno president in October.

-- BERNAMA

ZAI MFJ AO