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Puteri Umno ready for frontline role in polls

TUARAN, Mon. - Puteri Umno wants to be in the frontline in the next general election to erase the notion that its members are mere "bunga manggar" carriers, tea makers and receptionists in election campaigns.

Its head Azalina Othman Said said Puteri Umno members have the will and talent to conduct serious campaigning.

"Puteri Umno will not confine itself to having a cosmetic appearance in elections," she said at the opening of a political course attended by 200 Puteri Umno Sabah members at the Mimpian Jadi Resort here.

Azalina also said the movement will not allow itself to be intimidated or coerced in any way to serve the interests of selfish individuals seeking power or personal advancement.

She gave a commitment that she will oppose with all the resources at her disposal any attempt by self-interested groups or individuals in the party to manipulate Puteri Umno.

"As long as I lead this movement, I will oppose any attempt to manipulate Puteri Umno for personal gains," she said.

Azalina reiterated that Puteri Umno was free from money politics and cronyism, and will strive to maintain its clean image for the good of the party and the nation.

She said Puteri Umno would heed the advice and warning by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regarding money politics and cronyism.