

Penang Umno picks Jahara as opposition leader

MalaysiaKini.com

June 18, 2013

By Susan Loone

Penang Umno has appointed Teluk Ayer Tawar assemblyperson Jahara Hamid as the opposition leader in the state assembly.

State Umno chief Zainal Abidin Osman made the announcement at Menara Umno today.

Zainal Abidin said Jahara's appointment has been accepted by all 10 BN assembly members in Penang, and has been endorsed by Prime Minister and national BN chairperson Najib Abdul Razak.

"This is historical as it is the first time we have a female opposition leader in the state legislative assembly.

NONE"We are confident that that Jahara, who is a five-term assemblyperson, will do her job well as Azhar Ibrahim, the former opposition chief and former Penaga assemblyperson," Zainal Abidin told reporters.

"We hope Jahara (left) will be able to speak for all communities, not just the Malays, and to raise issues important to everybody," he said.

"This is a manifestation that Umno supports women, not just as ministers but as Opposition leaders as well."

Jahara was state executive councillor for women, sports, family and community development before 2008..

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/233221>