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Rafidah staying in Umno, will not join ex-boss Dr M's party

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz will not be joining other political parties, particularly Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Parti Pribumi) led by her former boss, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Umno veteran said she would remain an Umno member and had not been approached to join Parti Pribumi's pro tem committee.

"I have nothing to do and do not care much about any new party," she said yesterday.

Rafidah said she was aware of her name being linked to a so-called list of potential Parti Pribumi leaders.

"I know there is a list but I am not sure (of the details) as I was not in the country (when the list came out)," she said.

On Umno Youth vice-chief Khairul Azwan Harun's accusation of conspiracy involving former Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz, former attorney-general Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail and former Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission head Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed, Rafidah said politicians should stop playing the blame game.

"It is pointless and served only to confuse people. Issues like these divert our focus from real problems in the country.

"The three accused Tan Sris



Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz speaking after the opening ceremony of the **26th Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association International Conference** in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Asyraf Hamzah

should not entertain the issue. They are individuals with integrity and the accusation is baseless," Rafidah said after the opening ceremony of the 26th Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association International Conference.

Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said Parti Pribumi would only pose a challenge to the opposition fold, instead of Umno.

"If we go back to the basics, we can see that the formation of Parti Pribumi is only based on personal prob-

lems between Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and the prime minister.

"Unlike Parti Pribumi, Umno was formed to champion the Malay nationalism movement. As shown in the past, splinter groups like Parti Pribumi do not last long," he said yesterday during an interview with the *New Straits Times*.

Rahman also said Parti Pribumi would not attract many former Umno members.

"However, with that being said, we still see the party as a serious threat and will work hard to fight it."