

**Puteri Umno Focusses On The Grassroots - Rosnah
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KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Nov (Bernama) -- Implementation of programmes which focuses on the grassroots without hoping for publicity is one of the factors why Puteri Umno is not given prominent coverage by the mass media, the movement chief, Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin said.

However, she said, it did not mean that Puteri Umno was not committed to efforts to reduce social problems involving youths in the country.

"We cannot solve the problems 100 per cent, but if we work hard, the impact from the 20 to 30 per cents means a lot," she said in an interview with Bernama in conjunction with the 2011 Umno general assembly at her officer here yesterday.

She said the 'Life is Precious' and the "Banteras Ragut dan Rogol" (Eliminate Snatch Theft and Rape) or 'B2R' programmes, helped to enlighten youths and school students on personal safety, including to avoid getting involve in unhealthy activities.

The movement, she said, was also targeting to expand its programmes, like the Barber on Wheels (which provides free hair cut for school children), "Prihatin Puteri", involving visits by the movement to hospitals, mobile clinics and the "Siswa Sihat 1Malaysia", which promotes healthy life-style among students of institutions of higher learning.

On the party's general assembly, which begins this Tuesday, Rosnah said Puteri Umno would raise issues involving the young generation, as well as the 2012 Budget which was tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak last month.

"Other issues include preparation for the general election, winnable candidate, as well as the government and party's transformation programmes," she added.

Rosnah, who is Deputy Health Minister, hoped that the movement members would be given a chance to represent the Barisan Nasional as its candidates in the coming 13th general election.

"What is important to us is to strengthen Puteri. We will try to rectify our weaknesses to continue to give an impact on the society.

"Give Puteri a chance to develop," she said.

She advised Puteri Umno members to improve on their oratory skills so that their views and suggestions would get the attention of other delegates.

On Puteri Umno membership, Rosnah said the movement now had almost 395,000 members, aged between 18 and 35, and 290,000 of them had registered as voters.

She said the movement would continue with its tradition of being the platform to produce

second-line leaders.

On the 13th general election, Rosnah said it would determine the country's future.

"To me, it's a matter of life and death. If we can survive this time, we can survive anytime. This general election is crucial for us to retain the existing government. Puteri must take this seriously," she added.

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