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NCWO-Memorandum

NCWO WILL SUBMIT MEMORANDUM ON POLYGAMY TO PM

PETALING JAYA, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- The National Council of Women Organisations (NCWO) will submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister over its reservation on the amendment to the Selangor Islamic Family Enactment allowing men to take another wife without written permission from the first wife.

Its president, Datin Paduka Hajjah Zaleha Ismail said the memorandum has already been completed and the NCWO is only waiting for a date to submit it to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Zaleha, who is also National Unity and Social Development Minister, however declined to elaborate on the contents of the memorandum saying that it contained the views of the NCWO regarding the matter.

"The NCWO believes that the Prime Minister who is sensitive to the social development of women will take appropriate action," she told reporters after chairing a meeting of the NCWO, here today.

Asked whether the memorandum was a form of protest, she said: "I am not saying it is a protest but rather dissatisfaction with the matter and fear about its implications on women."

She said, at the meeting, the NCWO also agreed to set up a committee to find out the number of women in the country who married foreign workers to be submitted to the government.

The NCWO also thanked Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the 1997 Budget which was tabled yesterday which was sensitive to the development of women, she added.

She said the 1997 Budget approved an allocation of RM50 million for the development of women and RM52 million for the family institution. --

BERNAMA

RHM AO