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Zaharah-Shares

ZAHARAH DENIES SHARE ISSUE AS REASON FOR CONTEST

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- Wanita UMNO Exco member Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman today denied that dissatisfaction over the allotment of shares expressed by some members of the movement was the reason for her contesting the post of Wanita Head in the October party elections.

She said that the issue on share allotments raised at the movement's exco meeting was purely in the context of discussion and did not question the leadership of Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as Wanita Head and International Trade and Industry Minister.

"It was purely in the context of discussion and I don't think any Exco member had zeroed in on this particular question," she told reporters after launching the Exhibition on "Feeling Good After 50" at a shopping centre here today.

Siti Zaharah also denied the claims that she was dissatisfied with the way Rafidah had appointed State Wanita Leaders which was done through secret ballot and implying that Rafidah had plotted to influence the decision which led to her defeat by Muadzam Shah State Assembly woman, Maznah Mazlan.

"The matter does not arise at all," she added.

She said she was offering herself as a candidate for the movement's top post merely to bring changes to the Wanita Umno particularly at the grassroot level.

Zaharah also said she agreed with Rafidah's statement that every leader had a track record but reminded that such track record and performance must be assessed based on positive contribution, effectiveness, work productivity and achievements.

Replying to a question whether the Wanita leadership now was less effective in tackling the welfare and programmes in upgrading the living standard of grassroot members, Siti Zaharah said: "It is not lacking but the question is direction, programmes and definite guidelines which we (wanita leaders) have to assist the grassroot members to progress and be self reliant."

"I feel generally the elements of change must be in line with the problems which we must focus on like general issues which are frequently raised by wanita delegates at forums and general assemblies," she said.

She said UMNO was now more dynamic and the wanita movement was the party's left wing and must act in tandem with the party and not 'political per se' but to create political awareness on socio-economic issues.

To a question whether the concept "Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy" which she (Siti Zaharah) referred to in suggesting change meant that the present leadership was not "Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy," she said it did not refer to Rafidah or the present wanita leadership.

She said the question of "Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy" was simply her principle and stand like what was being practised by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister who wanted a responsible leadership.

"It is a principle and what I had said was my stand," she said when asked whether she was referring to Datuk Seri Rafidah. -- BERNAMA

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