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CM on how Wanita Umno can help improve economy

MALACCA, Fri. - Wanita Umno can play an important role in helping improve the country's economy by educating women to be thrifty, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin said today.

He said Wanita Umno should advise other women not to purchase unnecessary items especially those which were imported.

"The role of women cannot be denied in looking after the economy of their households. Therefore, women should plan their expenditure in a way that they do not purchase items which are not necessary," he said.

Abu Zahar said this at a high tea he hosted for State Wanita Umno members at his official residence in Seri Bendahara yesterday evening.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Khalijah Mohd Jiddi, State Wanita Umno chief Mahani Manap, State Assemblyman for Tangga Batu Hazizah Mohd Sultan and national Umno Wanita Exco member Latipah Omar.

Abu Zahar who is also the State Umno liason committee chairman said women could also be encouraged to plant crops like onions and chilli to meet their domestic needs.

"At present, most (food) items are imported and this results in an outflow of the ringgit from the country. This will in turn affect the value of our currency due to trade imbalances.

"To prevent such asituation, women should be encouraged to plant their own food like what they did in the old days. Today, there are many modern techniques to plant food such as hydroponics which saves land space," he said.

The Chief Minister said the present economic problem should not be blamed on the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He urged all Umno members to support both leaders as they had brought the country economic success.

"Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to warn businessmen who stab the leadership from behind that they are too outspoken. These businessmen do not appreciate the contributions that Dr Mahathir and Anwar had made to bring progress to this country," he said, adding all Malaysians should stand firm behind the leadership of the two.

Abu Zahar said his administration would emphasise on controlled development.

"I would want to see the State progress further. However, I do not want the Malays to be lagging. Therefore, I would like to emphasise a balanced development approach," he said.

During the event Wanita Umno members took a pledge to support the leadership of Dr Mahathir, Anwar and Abu Zahar. They also presented resolutions in the fields of educational, economical, religious, political and social.

Speaking to reporters later, Mahani said it was time for women to be represented in the State administration by being given a State Exco position, as well as a seat in the Senate.

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