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Six more Bumi firms in bad shape

UMNO Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said six more Bumiputera companies were in a precarious situation because of their low share prices.

She said as of June 18 this year, 76 Bumiputera companies had lost a total of RM1.4 billion of their initial public offer (IPO).

These 82 companies, owned by Bumiputeras, trust funds and co-operatives, were allocated shares by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry between 1996 and 1997.

Rafidah, who is Minister of International Trade and Industry, said:

"You can imagine how much they lost. This is what we are dealing with now and these are genuine and serious Bumiputera companies," she said when asked to elaborate on the problems faced by Bumiputera companies as announced by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his address when closing the general assembly.

"The issue before us is how we can help these companies when the shares have fallen below par."

Banks have been told to help companies which need more working capital, she said.

As for the New Economic Policy, Rafidah said the holdings of Bumiputeras had been set back. "Calculations need to be done as there are at least 400 Bumiputera companies involved."

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