

21 APR 1998

Workers

WANITA UMNO TO MEET EMPLOYERS OVER LAY-OFFS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 21 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno will hold meetings with employers over the recent retrenchment of women workers, to ensure that their rights are protected, its leader, Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, said today.

She said that the movement was taking a serious view of such lay-offs, since there had been reports of the workers being retrenched without reasonable cause.

"The employers must also not be selective to pick women for retrenchment," he told reporters after launching the home safety programme here.

Siti Zaharah, who is also Deputy Health Minister, said Wanita Umno would approach the Human Resource Ministry to investigate the reasons for such retrenchment.

She said the information collated by the ministry would be vital and would enable Wanita Umno to devise an effective programme to help those affected.

She was commenting on yesterday's statement by Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) president Zainal Rampak who disclosed that women made up some 65 per cent of the 20,000 workers laid off as a result of the economic turmoil.

Most of the women were deployed in the manufacturing and the services sectors.

According to Zainal, some of the women had complained that the employers gave no reason for their retrenchment.

On the Amanah Saham Wanita scheme to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 5, Siti Zaharah said she was informed that the scheme would be given official approval by the Securities Commission this week.

The Wanita Barisan Nasional-initiated scheme, with a RM500 million launching grant, is aimed at encouraging women to save and buy shares.

-- BERNAMA

NY AR RM