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Wanita drive to encourage women to save

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Wanita Barisan Nasional is encouraging foreign workers in the country to participate in its campaign to encourage women to save and invest to help cut down foreign exchange outflow.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today the movement had received several enquiries from foreign women about Tabung Ehsan Wanita, its trust fund for women.

"Instead of sending money back to their countries, we can encourage them to invest their earnings here. This can prevent the outflow of the ringgit.

"The main aim of the campaign is to encourage the people to save and to help the country overcome the current economic problem," she said at a Press conference.

She had earlier attended an interview on TV1's "Selamat Pagi Malaysia" live telecast, along with Wanita heads of three other main BN component parties.

Siti Zaharah said the investment profile for the campaign, to be launched on Sunday, would be wide-based.

"There will be mixed categories of investments, big and small. There will be women who want to invest a minimum of RM100 or as high as RM100,000," she said.

Asked about the risk involved, Siti Zaharah said certified fund managers had been appointed.

"We have also insisted on transparency. The fund managers will provide detailed information on investments on a constant basis," she said.

Gerakan Wanita chief Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen said she was confident that investors would get good returns from their investments.

"The share prices are very cheap and this is the time for best bargains," she said.

Siti Zaharah said women have the potential and the resources to help the country overcome its current economic problem.

She said feedback from fund managers revealed that a high percentage of women's savings has yet to be fully utilised.

"Women generally have savings but the amount tends to remain stagnant because they do not know how to invest to get high returns.

"They can use this opportunity to get high returns and at the same time help the country in its efforts to solve the economic problem," she said.

The campaign will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The campaign will also promote the idea of channelling savings into a women's trust fund.

Siti Zaharah said the women's trust fund (of which approval from the Securities Commission was still pending) would give women long-term benefits such as insurance policies, death benefits and funds for their business ventures.

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