

'Let PM decide number of seats'

24 JAN 1999

KOTA KINABALU, Sat. — The Wanita wing of the Barisan Nasional will leave it to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide on the number of seats to be allotted for the movement in the Sabah State election.

Its head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the movement would pass a resolution to let Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, determine the number of candidates from the movement to contest in

the elections.

She, however, refused to disclose the number of candidates the movement was hoping for, but said that it was more than one.

Currently, the sole Wanita representative in the 48-member State Assembly is State Rural Development Minister Datuk Dayang Mahani Tun Pengiran Raffae.

Mahani represents the Lumadan constituency.

Siti Zaharah said the request for more candidates from the movement was

also in line with the fact that the movement was not only loyal but also committed to the country, the leadership and the system.

"We are also here to show the commitment of the movement as a force, realising the fact that more than 50 per cent of voters in Sabah are women," she said.

Siti Zaharah was speaking to reporters after meeting with State Umno Wanita leaders and State BN leaders at the Umno Liai-

son Committee office in Kuwasa, near here, today.

Siti Zaharah, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department said the Wanita movement was committed towards ensuring a win for the BN in the State election.

"We know that only BN can continue to give us stability and development, and I think the people of Sabah are aware of this, especially in view of the economic downturn," Siti Zaharah added.