

23 JAN 1999

Zaharah-Sabah

DR M TO DECIDE SEATS FOR WANITA BN IN SABAH POLLS

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional's (BN) women wing 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 impending Sabah state election.

Its head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the movement had handed over its resolution on the matter to Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman.

"We have indicated to him our seriousness to help the BN win in the elections and we hope our resolution will be considered," she told reporters after meeting Sabah BN Wanita leaders and members here today.

When pressed further on the actual number of seats sought by the movement, Siti Zaharah, who is also Wanita Umno chief, said the movement had asked for a fair number of seats to commensurate the seriousness and support shown by women in ensuring the success of government policies.

State Rural Development Minister Datuk Dayang Mahani Tun Penggiran Ahmad Raffae, who is the state assemblywoman for Lumadan, is the sole woman representative in the State Legislative Assembly whose current five-year term expires on March 18.

Siti Zaharah said she was satisfied with the preparations by the State BN wanita wing which had mobilised its election machinery to the grassroots to ensure victory for the BN.

"I hope this spirit of camaraderie will continue as it showed the seriousness of the BN cannot be matched by other parties," said Siti Zaharah, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

She is confident the people would make the right choice as only the BN could guarantee stability and prosperity for them.

"I feel other parties will see how we tackle problems in a rational way, we are not hasty in our actions and always give priority to the people's interests. They know we cannot be weakened easily," she added.

-- BERNAMA

JS TS