

08 AUG 1999
Zaleha-Umno
FORGIVE STI ZAHARA, SAYS ZALEHA

IPOH, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno members should not call for a vote of no confidence against their chief, Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, and instead forgive her for any mistake she may have made, the movement's former vice head Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said today.

"As human beings, we cannot run away from making mistakes, and by forgiving we can bring together the members and strengthen the party," she told reporters after opening a function organised by the Ipoh Barat Wanita Umno division.

Zaleha, a member of the Umno Supreme Council, said Wanita Umno should close the chapter on the executive committee reshuffle issue and continue with their efforts towards winning more seats in the coming general election.

Dr Siti Zaharah announced her decision to reshuffle the exco last Monday, a move criticised by some of the movement's leaders. She reversed the decision on Wednesday on the advice of Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Zaleha called on Wanita Umno members to appreciate the lyrics of the movement's anthem, one line of which stresses on maintaining unity.

Zaleha, who has served under three Wanita Umno leaders -- Tan Sri Aishah Ghani, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz dan Zaharah -- said each leader had one own administration style.

An experience that she could not forget took place when she stood against Rafidah for the Wanita Umno chief's post in 1984.

"Rafidah who won the contest announced immediately (after the result was known) that I have been appointed to join her executive committee. This action prevented any split in the movement," said Zaleha.

-- BERNAMA
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