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Zaharah-Lawyers

PANEL OF WANITA UMNO LAWYERS TO HANDLE SYARIAH CASES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno will set up a panel of lawyers comprising its members to represent women in Syariah Court cases, its chief, Datuk Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, said today.

She said that the movement felt compelled to provide assistance due to a large number of cases involving women in the Syariah Court.

Assistance would be given to women especially in dealing with domestic problems and where their cases had been unduly delayed, she said.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of state Wanita Umno leaders at the Umno headquarters here, she said that the lawyers were being selected and an announcement would be made early next month.

The panel of Wanita Umno lawyers was set up in addition to the existing legal clinic providing legal services at a minimum rate to women facing problems, said Siti Zaharah, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

She said that discussions would be held with representatives of non-governmental organisations handling women's cases, the Syariah Court, Pusat Islam and related bodies to obtain input in dealing with cases to be handled.

"We also plan to hold a special session with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in July with the same purpose," she said.

Siti Zaharah said that the movement would use its special position to act as a pressure group to ensure justice for women.

-- BERNAMA

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