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Revelation uncalled for, says Norraesah

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Wanita Umno executive councillor Dr Norraesah Mohamad has described the revelation by fellow exco member Datuk Maznah Hamid to the Press of dirty politicking and back-stabbing within the movement as "unnecessary and uncalled for".

She said the issue here was the reshuffle of the line-up by Wanita Umno head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman which did not go down well with many members.

"And once the party president (and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) made a decision on it, the issue has been resolved.

"We have pledged to set aside all our differences as our common goal at the moment is to work hard for the party for the coming general election. We shall stand united by this common cause," she said.

Dr Norraesah, who is also a businesswoman like Maznah but "a small-time one" as she put it, was responding to Maznah's exposure of the turmoil in Wanita Umno which had caused difficulties to Siti Zaharah's leadership.

Maznah, who claimed to be a neutral party, also said that there were three factions within Wanita Umno - one behind Siti Zaharah, another supporting former Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and the other backing current deputy chief Datuk Napsiah Omar.

Maznah had said she was forced to expose it as she was "tired of the bickering and politicking".

Norraesah, however, said Maznah had missed the crux of the issue because she was not present at the Wanita exco meeting with Dr Mahathir on July 30.

The party president had called on the Wanita members to close ranks and not to wash dirty linen in public.

"That's why we were shocked with her (Maznah's) statement. And by making that statement, Maznah has unnecessarily taken the worms out of the can.

"Naturally there are differences among the exco members on issues, approaches and strategies and these will exist no matter who the leader is," she said.

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