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Siti Zaharah wants Harakah to be banned

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Pas' official organ, Harakah, should be banned as its misleading reports can create disunity among the people, especially the Malays, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today.

She said the foul language and incorrect information about the Government in the tabloid were aimed at creating disunity.

"It is time we review all aspects about Harakah as it has reached a level that jeopardises national unity by disseminating false information and depicting the Government in a negative light.

"They seem inclined to using Islam for their own political mileage," she told reporters when asked to comment on Harakah's role.

She had earlier handed out Hari Raya gifts for the needy on behalf of the Muslimin Indo-Malaysia Association.

The tabloid is currently being sold to the public at newsstands despite Home Ministry regulations stating that it was strictly for the readership of Pas members only.

All parties should adhere to the regulations to ensure that the people could continue enjoying national unity, Dr Siti Zaharah said.

"We have worked hard at building national unity to ensure that Malaysians can live in peace and harmony."

However, she said, there were efforts to break down that unity built over the years.

On the transfer of the Women's Affairs Department from her Ministry to the Prime Minister's Department, Dr Siti Zaharah said it would allow better streamlining of women's development programmes.

"Hawa can play an important role at clearing the confusion caused by opposition parties," she said.

She also thanked the Prime Minister for giving more attention to women's development.

Dr Siti Zaharah said the 14-point directive on ethics issued by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was more of a reminder to the Cabinet and its new members.

"It is important to know our ministry at all levels, even the desk officers' job. We have to take care of the ministry's vision and mission to ensure they are met especially as we face the challenges in the next millennium.

The directives include among others, not having links with family businesses and members are to carry out their duties loyally.

On the possibility of holding the Umno general assembly earlier, Dr Siti Zaharah who is also Wanita Umno chief, said the move was welcomed as long as it was good for the party.

Asked about women voters' inclination in the election especially in Kelantan and Terengganu, she said women voters were still loyal to BN.

"Although there are opinions that women members of the opposition were aggressive in Kelantan and Terengganu, Wanita Umno continues to play an important role.

"I continue to defend the opinion that women are loyal voters of the Government but we cannot deny the disunity factors facing Malays that are purposely created by Pas and Party Keadilan Nasional."

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