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Wanita-Zaharah (Struggle)

STRUGGLE EMANATES FROM DEEP AWARENESS- SITI ZAHARAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno Chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today members should realise that the struggle for the race, Islam and the country can only come from a sense of deep awareness.

Wanita Umno members should have a wider perspective and vision without sacrificing the foundations of the country's economic and national stability, she said.

"We should cherish the aspirations of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is leading a struggle to advance the interests of the people and defend the dignity and honour of the country," she told the Wanita Umno Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

A serious and sincere attitude was needed to focus on the struggle for the people, Siti Zaharah said.

Hence Wanita Umno wants the leaders to display a more open and just attitude and place the country's interests above that of the individual.

"The same applies on the question of moral responsibility. We need exemplary leaders to guide and mould at all levels, be it at the family institution, at the community work place or Wanita Umno divisional and branch levels."

A leader should be sensitive and be able to feel the pulse of a given situation to be in a position to interpret a particular problem nagging at the people, she said.

She said a relevant leader was one who placed before self the human dignity and sovereignty and championed these virtues.

"Like the leader who does not fear the muddy ground and is willing to be with the marginalised, the abandoned and the illiterate."

"Wanita Umno rejects any leader who resorts to slanderous tactics, incites, who hides behind the religious curtain and academic ivory towers or goes for money politics," she said.

Siti Zaharah also said Wanita Umno should be the pivot of the Umno struggle, be united and be the party's stabilising force, uphold its struggle and ensure the success of the objective of the national vision.

"We realise that if the Wanita deviate from the party platform or allow themselves to be used as tools by anyone out to advance his own interests, the party's objective can be jeopardised."

Wanita Umno did not want the country's political scenario to represent a platform for warring groups out to exploit the situation with the aim of toppling the government or changing the present system.

"We do realise that only with strong principles and a sincere struggle can the party survive," she said.

Turning to education, she said Wanita Umno wanted the country's academics and intelligentsia to join the government in adopting positive and constructive measures to develop the youthful human resources with responsibility.

"If possible, the realm of education should not be involved in politics so that the young can concentrate on their education," she said.

She also said ulamas and the leaders should jointly step up Islamic teachings in the new millennium as Islam was often blamed and belittled during social, political and economic conflicts be it at a particular place or at the world stage.

"Wanita Umno proposes that the Islamic Development Department take up

the challenge to spread Islamic teachings in the new millennium which will face the onslaught of sophisticated information technology and in the face of efforts to tarnish Islam."

--BERNAMA
NZ MAI AAM