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Election-Wanita (News Focus)

WANITA WANTS TO WIN ALL SEATS AS A PRESENT TO DR MAHATHIR

By: Zainal Abdul Jalil

ALOR SETAR, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- The Kedah Wanita Umno is confident the Barisan Nasional (BN) can win all four State Legislative Assembly seats and one Parliamentary seat allocated to women candidates in the state in the 10th general election.

"So far Wanita Umno does not see any issue that can become a problem that will hinder us in achieving the objective," said its head Fatimah Ismail.

Three of the Wanita Umno candidates are new faces namely Rosnah Abdul Majid in Tanjong Dawai, Marlia Abdul Latiff in Merbau Pulas and Siti Meriam Salleh in Belantek, all of which are state assembly seats.

Kubang Pasu Wanita Umno division head Barishah Saad is defending her Tunjang state seat for a second term while BN is fielding state Wanita MCA deputy head Lim Bee Kau for the Padang Serai parliamentary seat, replacing its head, Lim Lay Hoon.

For Fatimah, her exclusion from the list of candidates does not deter her from contributing to the party and does not undermine her confidence in BN and its women candidates in winning the election this time.

"When my name was not announced as a candidate for a third term, the opposition think I'm disappointed and there are some who try to influence me to support them but they are mistaken because I am still loyal to Umno," said Fatimah who won the Sungai Tiang state seat in the last general election.

She said the Wanita movement in the BN will work hard to ensure the BN will win all seats as a present to BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who has given the trust and recognition to Wanita.

In this context, the Wanita movement will mobilise its whole machinery including 12,600 vote canvassers to campaign house-to-house throughout the state in an integrated manner with other Barisan components.

Meanwhile, State Wanita MIC head Saratha Balan said the MIC Wanita movement will concentrate fully on the Indian community in the rural areas to secure 100 per cent support.

She said the movement will deploy its 500 members to campaign day and night everyday which began after the nomination day on Nov 20.

"What I feel is that the rural community, particularly women, have always been giving solid support to the BN and there is no major issue that can make them support the opposition," she said.

Tunjang state constituency candidate, Barishah is confident the opposition have no issue to raise which can affect BN's victory in the election.

"They can't deny that the BN brought development and provided basic and social amenities to the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency, and out of desperation they touch on personal issues and criticise leaders such as Dr Mahathir in their campaign," she said.

Barishah is being challenged by Kubang Pasu PAS head Abu Kassim Abdullah in the election. In the 1995 election, Barishah garnered 11,610 votes to defeat PAS candidate Yusoff Abdullah who polled only 4,366 votes.

Marlia, 46, who is contesting in Merbau Pulas, said she feels no pressure in facing PAS candidate Abdul Talib Yaakob who was also the former Kedah police CID Chief.

"As a former Kemas supervisor in the Merbau Pulas state constituency, I can expect BN to win with a big majority," she said.

Siti Meriam Salleh, 54, the BN candidate for Belantek, will face PAS candidate Mohd Isa Shafie.

She said she is not worried because she has good relations with the electorates.

Meanwhile, former Economic Editor of Utusan Malaysia, Rosnah Majid said she has her own vision for the Tanjong Dawai state constituency where she is contesting.

Rosnah, 46, who is now a fulltime politician, will be challenged by Merbok PAS leader, Yusof Omar.

In the Padang Serai parliamentary constituency, BN candidate Lim Bee Kau will be challenged by Keadilan's Saifuddin Ismail Nasution.

-- BERNAMA

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