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Razaleigh-women

WOMEN EXCO POSSIBLE IF BN VOTED TO POWER IN KELANTAN

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Women executive councillors are possible if the Barisan Nasional (BN) is voted to power in the state in the coming general election, said Kelantan Umno Liaison Chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today.

"Inshaallah, we will discuss that women to be given places in the state executive council," he told reporters after opening a women gathering, here.

Tengku Razaleigh said Kelantan Umno had submitted a list of potential candidates including women to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for approval.

He said women in the state should wake from their slumber and vote for the BN in the general election for a government that would look after their interest.

In Umno, women were not second class citizen that were good only to work in the kitchen or as vote canvassers during elections, he had said earlier in his speech at the function.

"Umno gives them respect, important positions including as Members of Parliament, state legislative assembly members and Cabinet ministers," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh said this was because only women could fight for women's interest.

As such, he urged Kelantan women to reject PAS which had deviated from Islamic teachings when it said women could not work, stand as election candidates and only fit to sit in the kitchen.

He said they had the power to change the present government as women made up 54 per cent of voters in the state.

Tengku Razaleigh said the problems facing women in Kelantan due to weaknesses of the PAS government over the past 10 years would be overcome when the BN won the general election.

Meanwhile, Kelantan Wanita Umno will launch a "Gerakan Mesra" programme to help the BN capture the state in the general election.

Its chief, Senator Zaleha Husin said the movement would visit every district to invite women to join the Umno and why PAS must be toppled in the election.

Women in the state had responded positively to activities organised by Umno, she said, citing as example a gathering at RTM transmitting station in Wakaf Che Yeh which was attended by some 5,000 women, 2,000 more than expected.

Zaleha also hoped that the party leadership would allocate additional seats to women to contest in the state to boost their influence.

In the 1995 election, Wanita Umno was given two state seats -- Salor and Kijang in Pengkalan Chepa -- but lost both of them.

-- BERNAMA

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