

04 JUNE 2000

Zaharah-MT

NO INDICATION FROM DR M ON APPOINTMENT TO SUPREME COUNCIL - SITI ZAHARAH

PETALING JAYA, June 4 (Bernama) -- Former Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today she had not received any indication from party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on her appointment to the supreme council.

She said the media should wait for Dr Mahathir's official announcement than to speculate on the appointments.

"The appointments are the president's pre-rogative, ask the presidentlah," she told reporters after launching the Open Day of the Pure Life Association in Puchong, here.

Dr Siti Zaharah, who is the National Unity and Social Development Minister, was commenting on a report in the latest edition of "Wawasan Merdeka", Umno's official newsletter, that she would be one of the three wanita leaders to be appointed to the council, the party's highest decision-making body.

The Umno Constitution allows the party president to appoint 10 members to the council. Twenty-five council members were elected in last month's party elections.

Dr Siti Zaharah lost to International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz by 12 votes in her bid to defend her post in the movement's elections on May 10.

Rafidah was reported to have said that Wanita Umno vice-head Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and the wing's executive committee member Dr Norraesah Mohamad were the movement's nominees to the council.

Dr Mahathir is expected to announce the 10 appointees in tomorrow's meeting of the supreme council, the first after the 54th Umno General Assembly.

In her speech, Dr Siti Zaharah said the government had implemented a major part of the provisions contained in the 1995 Children's Rights Convention through its various programmes.

Among the provisions in the convention are ensuring children below 18 years old are free from hindrances and hardship in their lives and they grow up in an healthy environment with full guardianship.

She assured the people that the government would give priority to protect the interests and welfare of children as enshrined in the convention's declaration.

-- BERNAMA

NY TS