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Rafidah-Offer/BM

RAFIDAH OFFERING HERSELF TO RECTIFY SITUATION

KUALA KANGSAR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Azia said today Wanita Umno must be free of problems like the sacking of its leaders to able to carry out efforts to strengthen the party machinery.

It was for this reason that she was offering herself for the post of Wanita Umno chief in the party elections, she said.

"It is because there has been so much discontent, discord within the Wanita. All is not well to put it that way. That is why I want to come in to offer my services to bring back Wanita to its foundation," she told reporters after holding a Hari Raya gathering, here, today.

"If there is no problem, I would let it be," she said, adding that the fight for the movement's top post this May should not touch on personal matters.

She said she was just offering the members a choice and even if she lost, it would not matter.

"If they want the old way where strength is enhanced, then I offer myself. If they want (the situation) like now, fighting and bickering, the choice is also theirs," she said.

She said the dropping of some Wanita leaders from its line-up last year was the first in the movement's history and had never happened before because the leaders realised that every individual was needed by the party.

"There's no need to sack because we (Wanita Umno) work as a team. Each has her specialty and everyone has a task to perform," she said.

She was referring to the reshuffle of the movement's leadership last August in which the Pulau Pinang and Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory Wanita Umno leaders and several other office bearers were dropped.

However, the reshuffle met with opposition and Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman was later advised by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to rescind the order.

Rafidah said the Wanita members should focus on more important matters facing the party and country like the next general election.

-- BERNAMA

MHI JK