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Siti Zaharah: Wanita Umno did not order Swiss watches

KUANTAN, Sat. - Wanita Umno members are not involved in ordering 300 Swiss watches worth RM12 million which the manufacturer claims have not been paid for, Wanita Umno head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today.

She said initial investigations by the movement revealed that certain people had misused the name of a senior Wanita Umno member when dealing with the watch company.

"The member has lodged a police report and we leave it to the police to investigate," she said when asked to comment on the matter.

Siti Zaharah, who is National Unity and Social Development Minister and Paya Besar MP, said the person had lodged the report to protect the movement and herself.

On Jan 28, Berita Harian reported that a Swiss watchmaker was claiming the amount from a non-governmental organisation linked to Wanita Umno after it ordered 300 watches worth RM40,000 each.

It was reported that no deposit was given as the NGO had used a recommendation letter from a senior Wanita Umno leader who allegedly had obtained the consent of Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking after opening the Permatang Badak Umno branch meeting at Dewan Rukun Tetangga Permatang Badak here, Siti Zaharah said the watchmaker had also been asked to clarify the matter as there was no Wanita Umno member involved in the deal.

"It is just between the watch company and the people promoting the watches. They (the promoters) had misused the name of Wanita Umno when ordering the watches from the Swiss company," she said.

Siti Zaharah said she believed the name of the Wanita Umno member had been misused with a bad intention to smear the name of the movement.

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