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Shahrizat-Estate

MINISTRY TO GIVE ATTENTION TO PLIGHT OF ESTATE WOMEN TOO

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Women and Family Development Ministry will not ignore the plight of women in estates in its programmes, said its minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil today.

She said the ministry in collaboration with the Women Affairs Department and the National Population and Family Development Board was formulating various programmes.

"We are drawing out programmes and certainly women in estates will be receiving our serious attention," she told reporters after launching the book entitled "Graduan" - New Careers and Employment Service for Malaysia Fresh Graduates, here.

On MIC President Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu's request that the post of parliamentary secretary in Shahrizat's ministry be given to Wanita MIC member, she said it was up to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide.

"He (Dr Mahathir) knows what he is doing," he said.

Besides the MIC, the Wanita MCA also wanted the post of deputy minister in the new ministry be given to them.

"Looks like it is a popular request but let the Prime Minister decides on it," said Shahrizat.

Asked whether she had requested for a deputy minister, she said she had not as yet because she was busy with discussions with the Public Service Department (PSD) on staff recruitment for the ministry.

She said ideally the ministry should have a deputy minister but again it would be up to Dr Mahathir as "PM will know what to do and when."

Shahrizat said the ministry was waiting for its secretary-general who would be announced this week.

"I don't know who will be the secretary-general but I hope the appointment could be expedited," she said.

On her ministry, Shahrizat said various modules covering policies, law and implementation were being studied.

"We will have a unit to look after these three areas to enhance awareness and eventually the development of women," she said.

She said the ministry hoped to go into smart partnership with universities involved in studies on women and development.

Meanwhile, managing counsellor and director of BIZ Connexion Sdn Bhd, Elia Talib said with the launch of Graduan, Malaysian fresh graduates could get help in choosing their career path suited to their talent, qualifications and interest.

"Since 1994, we have distributed our annual publication on careers and employment to over 230,000 Malaysian fresh graduates and final year undergraduates pursuing degrees or diplomas in over 500 universities and colleges in Malaysia, the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

"For seven years we have also been working very closely with employers of over 200 "blue chip" and up-and-coming Malaysian companies and multinationals based in Malaysia which have been advertising with us to hire fresh graduates," she said.

The book and website -- [www.graduan.com.my](http://www.graduan.com.my) -- has everything from in-depth write-ups about major Malaysia industries and companies, articles related to the graduate job-seekers and graduates resume accessible to more than 100 companies.

The comprehensive career resource service is provided free to fresh graduates.

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