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PM given list of capable women leaders

KUALA KANGSAR, Thurs. - A list of capable Wanita Umno candidates is in the hands of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and its up to him to decide whether to appoint more women to the Cabinet.

Its chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the original list was submitted to the Prime Minister after the general election last year and she had continuously provided inputs to Dr Mahathir on several issues including on women participation in the Government.

Rafidah was speaking to reporters after attending the Hari Raya function organised by Malaysian Ex-Servicemen Association, Manong branch today.

She, however, declined to confirm whether she had asked for more posts for women in the Cabinet. What was important, she said, was for the movement to lobby for more posts in decision-making bodies at Federal and State levels.

"We have been informed that in some agencies, there are no women appointed at the top level although there are a number of capable candidates," said Rafidah, who is International Trade and Industry Minister.

Rafidah also said the movement would ensure that there would be minimum contest during the divisional elections this year, especially in the Wanita movement.

She said those planning to go for any post should discuss with the incumbent before contesting and find the best way to avoid split in the division.

"If possible, avoid any contest. But, if it cannot be avoided, they must ensure that the division stays united after the election," she said.

On the statement by Parti Keadilan Nasional's Youth chief Mohamed Ezam Mohamad Noor that Keadilan was not a Malay party, she said the Malays should realise the party did not care about the future of the Malays, but was only concerned about the fate of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

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