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Shahrizat to focus on reducing serious crimes against women

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - As one of its first tasks, the newly-established Women's Affairs Ministry plans to address crimes against women, its Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said today.

She said Inspector-General of Police Tan Norian Mai had agreed to cooperate with the Ministry by giving a thorough briefing on various aspects of this issue.

"The Ministry together with several non-governmental organisations will hold the meeting with the police to discuss the matter in detail as soon as possible," she said.

Shahrizat was named to lead the newly-created Women's Affairs Ministry on Jan 17 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. She would be sworn in as a minister this Tuesday.

The Ministry was set up because of strong pressure calling for the creation of such a new Ministry to make women's issues mainstream.

"In the meeting with the police, we expect to get data and statistics on the number of crimes against women including rape, murder and abuse cases as well as the crime-prone areas where most of the victims are women," said Shahrizat, who is Lembah Pantai MP.

She told reporters this after attending a Kongsu Raya celebration co-organised by the Brickfields police and the Lembah Pantai MP's office at the Brickfields Police Station.

Also present were newly-appointed Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Norian, his wife Puan Sri Rokiah Ismail, Brickfields district police chief Assistant Commissioner Koh Hong Sun and wife Tay Pheck Ying.

With the data received from the police, Shahrizat said, the Ministry would begin to formulate its policy and programmes.

Asked whether crimes against women had become serious, she said, one could not wait for it to be so and preventive measures had to be implemented as soon as possible to curb the problem.

"I plan to begin campaigning against crimes against women by next month," she said.

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