

18/02/2001

Wanita MCA seeks Deputy Minister's post

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Wanita MCA will lobby for the post of Deputy Minister in the newly set up Women and Family Development Ministry, Wanita chief Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said today.

She said she had raised this matter with party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik at the presidential council meeting on Feb 5.

The response from the top leadership was good and Ng said she viewed it as an "endorsement" of Wanita's intention.

"Dr Ling is to take our appeal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," she told a Press conference after chairing a Wanita central committee meeting.

The wing will support Wanita deputy chairman Datin Paduka Tan Yee Kew as a candidate.

Dr Ng added there were also "many other capable women" in MCA who would do well as parliamentary secretaries.

She said she had also informed Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who seemed receptive of Wanita MCA's intention.

Dr Ng said she did not know if the women's wing of other political parties had made their own bids to secure the post but felt that a Wanita MCA candidate was most suited to the task based on the movement's track record.

"We have 328,000 members, making us the largest Chinese women's organisation in the world outside China and we have been in existence for 26 years."

Today, Dr Ng also announced programmes for all Wanita's 143 divisions to enhance community and cultural ties and to encourage new leadership.

Beginning in April, the divisions are to launch social and community programmes on health and family issues with non-governmental organisations and other ethnic groups.

Each division will hold a one-day leadership seminar, including orientation for new Wanita members.

The divisions will also compete in karaoke and folk dance competitions with a multiracial theme.

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