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Ketari-Zaharah

OPPOSITION HAS NO SOCIAL ISSUES TO USE AS WEAPONS, SAYS ZAHARAH

BENTONG, March 28 (Bernama) -- The opposition, especially the DAP, has no social issues to use as weapons in the campaigning for the Ketari state by-election on Sunday, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today.

This was because the Barisan Nasional (BN) government had never neglected the welfare of the old, the poor and the disabled, she said, adding that if any cases had been overlooked "we are prepared to help".

She said their welfare was guaranteed and special allocations were even set aside for this group under the economic stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last year where the minimum welfare aid for some recipients had been doubled to RM400 a month.

The business launching grant for this group had also been increased to RM2,700 from RM1,500, she said after a meet-the-people programme organised by the ministry, here.

Dr Siti Zaharah said the government's focus now was to help students who needed money for their studies so that when they became successful they would help their families.

"The opposition can say anything they want but their allegations are unfounded. What have they done to help? Moreover, there's no room for them to help," she said.

Earlier she presented monthly aid from the National Welfare Foundation to 260 people comprising the disabled, handicapped, single mothers and senior citizens.

The Ketari by-election on Sunday will see a straight fight between the BN's Yum Ah Ha and Choong Siew Onn of the DAP.

-- BERNAMA

SHS JK