

05 SEP 2003

Shahrizat-Flexi

CABINET TO GET MEMO ON FLEXI WORKING HOURS FOR WOMEN

PETALING JAYA, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- The Women and Family Development Ministry will submit a memorandum to the Cabinet outlining proposals for women to work from home under the flexible working hours concept.

Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the ministry was advocating the flexi hours concept to tap the resources of women who otherwise might have to quit work because of family commitments.

The memorandum would spell out recommendations enabling women to work from home, as suggested by women's organisations, she told reporters before the "Bicara Minda" dialogue jointly organised by the ministry and Women Graduates Association of Malaysia here today.

She was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the government would amend the Employment Act 1955 to incorporate more flexible work regulations to increase the participation of women in the work force.

Dr Mahathir said the proposed amendments would include telework regulations, part-time work and work-sharing to enable women to combine careers with household responsibilities.

The Prime Minister said this in a written reply to Chew Mei Fun (BN-Petaling Jaya) in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Shahrizat said the ministry welcomed this move and would identify the suitable sectors for implementation.

One current obstacle was the regulation barring a business from being registered under a home address, she said.

She said a study conducted on some 2,000 women showed that the majority of them preferred to work from home where they could look after their children at the same time.

The dialogue series was started two years ago to enable the ministry to get feedback on work problems faced by women professionals.

Today's session involved women professionals in the medical sector.

-- BERNAMA

HM JM YBY