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Umno-Wanita (Rafidah)

WANITA UMNO TO FOCUS ON WINNING BIG- RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno will mobilise its entire resources to ensure Umno and the Barisan Nasional won a resounding victory in the coming national polls, its head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said today.

Addressing the annual Wanita General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here, she said such a victory for Umno and the BN would preserve the current political climate and set the national economy on course for even greater progress.

Malaysians should continue to support the Umno-led BN Government in view of its proven track record of defending the country from all challenges.

Umno had also proved that it could safeguard the interests of the Malays and other citizens and help realise their aspirations, Rafidah said.

She said the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan should serve to remind the people of the need for a strong government so that Malaysia did not face a similar fate.

"A strong government with the full backing of the people will enable the leaders to face all challenges and threats," she said in her speech themed "Strive Towards Victory".

Rafidah said Wanita Umno being the wing of the biggest party, the movement had a big role and heavy responsibility in mobilising the party election machinery.

"To Wanita, this is the main priority until the end of polling. This work in fact does not need publicity or any gimmicks. There should be an element of secrecy in the strategies," she said.

Rafidah said the October succession should proceed smoothly so that the party remained strong to realise the vision of past Umno leaders and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Umno members, particularly from Wanita Umno, should give their support and cooperation to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi like what they did for Dr Mahathir.

"InsyaAllah the succession will be orderly and go off well and Wanita Umno will give its undivided support to the new leadership like what we gave for Dr Mahathir," she said.

Rafidah said Umno had succeeded in raising the status and position of the Malays and the Islamic community through various policies and programmes and by venturing into new areas of the economy based on knowledge.

She said Muslims in Malaysia were fortunate compared to their brothers in several West Asian countries, who were locked in conflict and faced the problem of terrorism, causing them to be in the clutches of backwardness.

Rafidah said Umno had a big responsibility to explain to the people the deviations of the opposition party which used Islam to realise its political ambitions.

"In a situation where political maturity has not reached the desired high level, it is very easy to influence people by adopting the religious approach and equating support for the political party to that for Islam," she said.

Rafidah was saddened that the opposition party had spread the politics of hatred and disunity in the Public Religious Schools to the extent of producing extremists.

She said the policy of meritocracy when admitting students to

institutions of higher learning was aimed at creating a culture of excellence among Bumiputeras and make them compete.

"Malays and Bumiputeras should make meritocracy as the yardstick so that the culture of asking for special treatment and dependence on economic crutches can be discarded," she said.

Rafidah said Malays and Bumiputeras did not lack in anyway when compared to other races and through hardwork they could attain success in all fields of endeavour.

-- BERNAMA

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