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Rafidah-AP

RAFIDAH TO EXPLAIN AP ISSUE AT TOMORROW'S CABINET MEETING

KUCHING, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said today she will explain the Approved Permits (AP) controversy at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Rafidah, who was attending her first official function here after returning from overseas for follow-up treatment on a knee surgery, said she had been on a five-day medical leave.

"Of course I will be attending the (cabinet) meeting. I will explain about it (AP)," she said after delivering a keynote address at the Sarawak Investment and Trade Dialogue and Seminar on "Opportunities in Manufacturing and Related Services," here.

It was opened by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Initially, Rafidah, who appeared to be in high spirits, especially during the lively dialogue with members of the local small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs), was reluctant to speak to the media.

"Enough is enough. You (reporters) don't harass me. I'm doing my seminar," she said when pressed for comments on the AP issue.

Rafidah was reported to have been asked to give her views on matters raised by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the issuance of APs to import cars.

She was to have explained the matter at last week's Cabinet meeting but did not turn up as she was on medical leave.

Meanwhile, Abdullah said in Sepang today that he was confident that Rafidah would attend tomorrow's meeting as she needed to explain the controversy surrounding the APs.

The cabinet would like to seek a lot of clarification from her, he had told a news conference upon his return at the KL International Airport (KLIA) after spending a week with his wife, Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, who is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer in Los Angeles in the United States.

-- BERNAMA

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