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'Women too busy to lure bosses to get promotions'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Women are too busy with their work to have time to lure their bosses to get promotions and preferential treatment, said social activist Datuk Paduka Marina Mahathir.

In view of the rising number of women bosses today, she said it might be men who had to rely on their charms to get promoted.

"To say that there are women getting promotions and preferential treatment at work because of their charms is a discredit to the vast majority of women who have worked hard to get where they are now."

Marina was responding to a statement by National Women Advisory Council member Dr Rokiah Talib that there were women who used their feminine charms to lure their male bosses to get promotions and preferential treatment at work, which put "other ordinary female at a disadvantage".

"I hope Rokiah is basing her statement on a specific case and not generalising," she added.

National Council of Women's Organisation deputy president Ramani Gurusamy said she was disturbed with Rokiah's contention, adding if such practices did occur, they were "very few and far in between".

"Women often have to prove themselves two or three times better than their male counterparts before they are considered for promotions."

She said undeserving promotions could be avoided if the management were to adhere to standard procedures.

Women's Aid Organisation executive director Ivy Josiah said Rokiah's statement was a "disservice" to women who worked hard to be promoted.

However, Josiah said there would always be employees, male and female, who would try to get the attention of their superiors.

Women and Family Development Ministry secretary-general Datin Faizah Mohamad Tahir said no cases of women using their feminine charms to lure their bosses had been reported to the ministry.

In Shah Alam, Anti-Corruption Agency director-general Datuk Zulkifli Mat Noor was asked if such a practice could be considered as corruption.

He said the ACA would look into the matter if reports were lodged.