

PKR's Zuraida hammers 'stone-age' Umno lawyer
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Umno lawyer Mohd Hafarizam Harun continues to receive brickbats two days after bringing up the "uzur syarie" issue, with a PKR lawmaker calling him "stone-age."

Ampang MP and PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin said that such outdated comments should have never been made.

"This sort of stone-age attitude sends out the wrong signal to society.

"Menstruation is a natural part of a woman's life.

"There is nothing wrong or dirty with women having her menses and it is this cycle which allows new life to be brought into this world," she added in a press statement.

Zuraida noted that it was merely a scholarly debate whether a women's menstruation should bring about restrictions and prohibitions on women acting professionally on the job.

"Certainly, anybody's personal life has nothing to do with a woman's capability to being a menteri besar or accompanying the sultan on official functions," she said.

She pointed out that Muslim women leaders have held key positions such as prime ministers in Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey.

Hafarizam (left) was reported in the New Straits Times on Tuesday as saying that a woman may not be a menteri besar because of "uzur syarie", which carries the meaning of menses and confinement after birth.

Furthermore, Hafarizam also pointed out that a hadith (narration of Prophet Muhammad) had said that a country would not prosper if led by women.

'21 elected heads of state who are women'

This also drew a rebuke from Selangor exco member Rodziah Ismail, who made a count. She said that right now, there were 21 elected head of states who were women.

Rodziah further countered Hafarizam's statement using the al-Quran. She cited the story of Queen Balqis, who ruled with wisdom and made Saba' a prosperous nation.

The Quran had praised Queen Balqis for not being a dictator, but instead consulted other

statesmen before making important decisions. She loved her people and put their interests first and most of all, she humbled herself before God, Rodziah said.

“(Hafarizam’s statement) is very repressive and sexist, and it makes mockery of the whole world and forms a negative image of the country of Malaysia.

“Indeed, there are no restrictions for a woman leader at whatever levels to perform her duty in a fair and equitable manner, if that is her intention, in whatever biological condition,” said Rodziah, who chairs Selangor’s social welfare and women’s affairs committee.

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