

**Rosmah Pooh-Poohs Her Naysayers Over Whirlwind Visits**  
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MUSCAT -- First lady Rosmah Mansor who came under fire in Malaysian blogosphere pooh-pooh'ed the vicious comments following her whirlwind tour of 3 countries early this year. She was reported to have said that she is not distracted by negative comments levelled against her over her visits abroad.

Rosmah said that her visits were justified on the basis of her being official invited by governments or women ministers of the relevant countries.

She was quoted at the conclusion of her four-day visit to Oman, as saying that said such visits would also take place when she was required to deliver a keynote address at certain events.

"So, let them say whatever they want to say, but I feel that this visit is very beneficial not only to us but to all Malaysians regardless of race, religion or even what party they belong to," Bernama quoted her saying, alluding to the visit to Oman in particular.

"I'm not here to represent certain sections of the people but we're here to represent Malaysians," Rosmah added, noting that she and members of her delegation had been well received here, and that the Ruler of Oman, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, himself had taken interest in the visit.

She was accompanied by several members of the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti), and is the first Malaysian dignitary in 20 years to have been accorded that privilege.

Justifying her expertise and experience, she was quoted as saying, "I was informed in Riyadh that I hadn't been invited just because I'm the wife of a prime minister. They had apparently done their homework, research to see what I've contributed to children's education, especially those below four years old as well as gifted children.

"And I'm very happy that even in Saudi Arabia, they've now recognised the fact that it's very important to give attention to early childhood education and care and also gifted children," she said.

In response to her naysayers, Rosmah said: "To me, if they want to complain, I've got no issues. Let it be. I'm only doing this as a leader's wife. "It's my duty and responsibility to help any way I can, especially with regards to women empowerment and children's issues."

She added: "I'm not involved in politics, I'm not involved with the policies of the government -- that's being taken care of by the cabinet, the prime minister, deputy prime minister. "We're only putting in our effort and time and interest in children and the less privileged, so what's the problem."