

Sexist remarks to be brought up to Cabinet

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Standing Orders may be amended

KUALA LUMPUR: The issue of sexist remarks by two Barisan Nasional MPs will be brought up in tomorrow's Cabinet meeting.

Stating her "deep displeasure" over the remarks, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said an apology from the MPs would be the honourable thing to do.

"I will bring this up to the Cabinet to see whether it is possible to amend the Standing Orders to include that language used in Parliament must be gender sensitive.

"I see this happening over and over, and it's getting worse," she said.

Last week, following Fong Po Kuan's (DAP - Batu Gajah) observations of leaks in the Parliament building, Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin (BN - Kinabatangan) reportedly said:

"Mana ada bocor, Batu Gajah pun tiap-tiap bulan bocor juga (Where is the leak? Batu Gajah leaks every month too)."

Wanita MCA chief Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen voiced her protest over the "vulgarity and crude behaviour" of the MPs, saying such "sexist remarks cannot be tolerated."

"It shows absolute disregard for decorum and vilifies the dignity of both our Parliament and women in general," she said.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said it was up to Parliament to decide on the action that could be taken against the two MPs.

He said the remarks were not supposed to

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DATUK SERI SHAHRIZAT ABDUL JALIL

be taken seriously and that there were certain parties out to make a big deal of the issue.

In Kota Kinabalu, Assistant State Industrial Development Minister Datuk Jainab Ahmad called on the two MPs to apologise, saying the remarks reflected the MPs' failure to "respect their own mothers."

In Ipoh, Lim said Barisan women MPs should account for their "conspicuous absence" from the House when the motion to refer the two MPs was rejected.

"All the Barisan women MPs, including ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries, conspicuously stayed away, although they had more than four hours' notice of the Speaker's ruling," he said in a statement yesterday.