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Sambutan Ulangtahun Ke 10

Datuk Seri Najib Razak cutting *pulut kuning* to mark the 10th anniversary celebration of the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday. With him are minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil (third from left), her deputy, Datuk Heng Sei Kie (front row, second from right), Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen (second from left) and other officials. — NST picture by Effendy Rashid

PM: Women can fill more high positions

By DharshinfBafan
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KUALA LUMPUR: The government hopes at least 30 per cent of women will hold decision-making positions in government and private sectors in the future.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday the figure was achievable if there was sustainability among intelligent and capable career women.

"Women make up 45 per cent of the workforce in the country but this figure does not compare with their enormous contributions to the coun-

try's economic development.

"Women have played an important role in the country's development over many decades in various sectors," he said at the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry's 10th anniversary celebration at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Najib said there were many women of merit and calibre, but many chose to resign after working for a few years.

"Sustaining this dynamic group of career women is important as they are part of the nation's development.

"If more women are willing to build their career, be it in the government or private sector, I am confident they can fill high positions offered in these sectors."

Najib said women in Malaysia were lucky as there was no discrimination in the workplace and they were able to hold high-ranking positions.

"That is the difference between Malaysia and some other countries, where women are treated unfairly due to their gender and are unable to hold positions in the government, or even to vote."

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri

Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the ministry would focus on empowering and increasing the quality of life of their target group.

"We will focus on policies such as welfare transformation, protecting children from being exploited and abused, social development, the family institution and a better quality of living for the disabled, among others.

"There will also be priority in reaching out and engaging the young, as it is important to educate them as part of the solution in addressing the challenges faced by the country today."