



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launching the National Policy on Women at the International Women's Day celebration in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Present are Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri (second from left), her deputy Datuk Seri Noraini Ahmad (second from right) and Anwar's wife, former women's minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (third from right). NSTP
PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

NATIONAL POLICY ON WOMEN

PM: GOVT CAN LEAD IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

To persuade private sector, the public sector must set an example, says Anwar

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THE government should set an example for the private sector by empowering women in leadership, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

At the International Women's Day celebration, he urged the chief secretary to the government to find ways to empower women in the civil service in line with their capabilities.

"While prominent women have held esteemed positions with commendable performance, their role in the public service requires further enhancement.

"I urge the chief secretary to the government to find ways to elevate women's role and position in line with their capabilities.

"They were chosen not because they are women, but for their credibility and outstanding track record.

"That is why the government must set an example.

"Although there has been progress, with 30 per cent of Jusa (Jawatan Utama Sektor Awam) and above positions held by women, there is still room for improvement."

At the event, he launched the

National Policy on Women to enhance women's empowerment.

He said the private sector, especially large corporations, government-linked companies and government-linked investment companies, must evaluate why the number of women in leadership positions remained low.

"I believe the cabinet will prioritise this issue and request reports on it.

"Even if the numbers remain low, we should not rush promotions. Instead, we need careful planning.

"If the government does not set an example, it will be difficult to persuade the private sector to follow."

He said the situation in private companies was concerning, as women's participation in leadership was low and their access to training was limited.

He said with the growing importance of data centres and artificial intelligence, Malaysia must ensure women are included in technical and vocational education and training, university programmes, centres of excellence and major corporate initiatives.

"We will monitor this. I believe the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry should work with other ministries to oversee programmes that support women."

He said there must be a push for greater representation of women in politics.

"We need strong women leaders who can speak up about freedom and democracy, making full use of opportunities to express their perspectives in a way that contributes to nation-building."

He said all ministries must take the National Policy on Women and action plans into account when designing their programmes.

Present were Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri and her deputy, Datuk Seri Noraini Ahmad.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, in a Facebook post, described women as the cornerstone of the "first madrasah", symbolising strength and resilience within families, communities and the nation.

He urged the country to advocate for inclusive policies that empowered women, recognising their significant contributions.

Acknowledging the progress in women representation in politics, he highlighted the steps towards more inclusive leadership.

He called for attention to key social and economic issues, such as the gender pay gap, social protection, health rights and violence against women.

He said the theme for this year's International Women's Day, "Wanita Beraspirasi Membina Legasi" (Women Aspiring to Build a Legacy), was a tribute to women from all walks of life, reflecting their unwavering spirit in pursuing their dreams and their commitment to lasting change.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, in a social media post, acknowledged the significant roles women play as mothers, leaders and educators, as well as their contributions to national progress.

"Keep aspiring, keep building a legacy."