

**PKR to play off Wan Azizah against Rosmah in new campaign**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**August 23, 2011**  
**By Debra Chong**

PETALING JAYA, Aug 23 — PKR is pitting its president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail against the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor as an alternative role model for Malaysian women to aspire to.

The opposition party's women's wing chief Zuraida Kamaruddin launched a six-part series of stories today titled "Cerita Kak Wan" featuring the life and career of a housewife who once helmed the opposition bench in Parliament while raising six schoolgoing children when her husband was stuck in prison.

"Kak Wan" is the affectionate moniker given by party members for Dr Wan Azizah, 58, who was opposition leader from 2004 to 2008. She is married to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the one-time deputy prime minister who was sacked from government for alleged sodomy and corruption in 1998 and jailed 15 years.

The Ampang MP told a press conference today that Malaysians, especially those in rural areas, needed to be shown "we have a better role model than the one we've got right now" in an apparent dig at Datuk Seri Najib Razak's wife whose taste in fine jewellery and branded clothes and handbags has been spotlighted. Rosmah's circle of friends has also been questioned.

Influential Indonesian paper Kompas had earlier this month alleged that Rosmah bought a US\$24 million (RM72 million) diamond ring off celebrity New York jeweller Jacob & Co and was close friends with a woman who purportedly had links with the Russian mob.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak has denied his wife bought the US\$24 million diamond ring or that his Kazakhstan in-laws-to-be are linked to the "Russian mafia" as reported by Kompas.

Kompas has since apologised to the prime minister for its August 4 report but mystery remains why the ring from Jacob & Co was addressed to Rosmah, according to pictures widely available on the Internet.

Kompas chief editor Rikard Bangun also apologised to Najib and his family over the report although it is understood that the Prime Minister's Office had used back channels to threaten a suit against the Indonesian daily. However, the daily has not flinched except for the apology.

"Too much Rosmah is not healthy for Malaysia," quipped the party's chief strategist Rafizi Ramli today at the launch of the Kak Wan campaign.

A total of 35,000 sets of pamphlets on Dr Wan Azizah will be distributed, starting in Selangor, as part of a nationwide campaign to reach out to women voters ahead of the coming general polls, widely expected to be called later this year.

Zuraida said the stories on the PKR president portray the latter to be a "normal" woman who lives an ordinary life, and which "ordinary" women, especially those in the rural areas, will be able to identify with more easily, "unlike a woman who can buy rings, handbags and shoes".

Divided into six chapters, Dr Wan Azizah kicks off her narrative with explaining her reason to go public; and then moves in chronological fashion through her childhood; her university days at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland where she graduated as an ophthalmologist; her romance with Anwar; his arrest; and her journey into politics.

The stories are accompanied by never-before-seen photographs of a young Dr Wan Azizah and exclusive video interviews. They are also available for download from the Internet [here](#).

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/penang-tells-koh-to-wake-up-to-reality/>