

2012 Budget Friendly To Women
Bernama
October 8, 2011

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Several non-governmental organisations and women leaders today described the 2012 Budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as a women-friendly budget as it also focused on the welfare of women and recognising their contributions to the country.

IKRAM Malaysia women chief Dr Harlina Halizah Siraj said the government's effort to provide facilities like a hospital for women and children was seen as something really special.

"Such a facility for women is important and should be given extra focus as the women have played so many important roles in the society," she told Bernama here.

Meanwhile, Wanita Umno executive secretary Noor Haiza Mariena described the proposed hospital for women and children as a caring effort taken by the government in providing the best infrastructures for women and children.

"Prior to this, a special coach for women has been introduced on KTM commuter trains. Now, the government is taking the next step by allocating RM700 million to build a hospital for women and children," she said.

National Cancer Society of Malaysia honorary advisor Datuk Zuraidah Atan said the 2012 Budget also showed the government's concern for women's health when it agreed to provide free HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccinations to enable more women to be immunised against cervical cancer.

"This is a very good move to prevent the terminal illness at the early stage," she said.

Puteri Umno vice chief Shahanim Mohamad Yusoff, on the other hand, said the advanced management programmes for women with potential to become members of the board of directors that would be organised by the government should be put into optimum use by the women to prove that they were also competitive individuals.

She said the women should also take the opportunity from the allocation given to the Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (Tekun) and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) to provide incentive and micro-financing to small entrepreneurs, to venture into entrepreneurship.

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