

Wanita Umno Remains Strong And Will Never Betray The Party
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno chief, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil today said Wanita Umno is not shaken and will remain strong to face the next general election even when the opposition is using the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) issue to make personal attacks against her.

She said members of Wanita Umno, who numbered 1.3 million, had always been loyal and supportive to the party leadership in good and bad times and would never betray the party and its struggles for the Malays.

"We will not get trapped easily in the finger-pointing polemics or in the blame game. We will always be the ones making the necessary sacrifices," she said in her policy speech at the Wanita Umno assembly here today, which was greeted with loud cheers from the 944 delegates.

Also present were Umno Supreme Council members Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and Datuk Abdul Aziz Abd Rahim, as well as Umno Information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan.

Shahrizat said with that spirit, Wanita Umno had also managed to survive Umno leadership crises in 1987 and 1998, and the political tsunami in 2008.

"That is the role of women. Despite their softness, kindness, courteousness and friendliness, women are always strong in facing challenges and overcoming problems.

"I have represented the women when the party was facing various challenges. In Wanita Umno, we are bound by principles and have been synonymous with our tasks, aspiration and trust.

"We will be strict when necessary and we know when to use a softer approach," she said.

She said the women attending the assembly were not just members of Wanita Umno, but also a mother and a wife and they had always been there for the party.

Shahrizat also reminded Wanita Umno not to hold grudges or to envy each other as it could lead to self-destruction.

She also believed that Umno would gain the support of the people in the next general election as long as Wanita Umno members were committed and sincere in serving the party.

At the same time, Shahrizat said she was also willing to face any challenge after being given the mandate to lead the movement.

"I've been in Umno for 30 years, but believe me, my spirit is still young and Wanita Umno will continue to become the fortress and backbone of the party.

"Don't anyone dare to think that I'm weak. You may see me smiling, but I'm facing

numerous challenges. I'm not only leading Wanita Umno during the good times, but I was also there during the bad times.

"So, this is a reminder for all. Don't take Wanita UMNO for granted. We have been courteous in our struggles, we are Malay women, Muslim women and we don't believe in crude leadership," she said.

Hence, she also reminded the opposition parties not to provoke Wanita Umno by making baseless allegations.

"I would like to warn the opposition and to the rude PKR Wanita chief, Zuraidah Kamaruddin, you think we're intimidated? She wants me to step down. Who is she? She is just scared of the leadership of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who has elevated the status of women in the party and enabled Wanita Umno to surge ahead," she said.

Shahrizat said the PKR Wanita chief had to look deep into the party before challenging her to step down as Umno Wanita chief.

"To Zuraidah, you asked me to step down and today, I dare you to urge PKR president (Datin Seri Wan Azizah Ismail) to resign," she added.

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