

**PM mum over talk that Shahrizat has resigned**  
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PASIR GUDANG: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will make an announcement on the position of Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil in the Cabinet and as Wanita Umno chief "at an appropriate time".

The Prime Minister and Umno president neither denied nor confirmed rumours that the Women, Family, and Community Development minister had quit.

"There are all kinds of rumours. We will make an announcement at an appropriate time," he said after launching the *Jelajah Sayang 1 Malaysia* programme at Pasir Gudang Indoor Stadium.

On whether Shahrizat was still Wanita Chief and a minister, Najib repeated that "an appropriate announcement" would be made.

Shahrizat herself, when asked about the rumours, only smiled and declined to comment.

Shahrizat had been drawn into the controversy involving the National Feedlot Corporation of which her husband Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Salleh is executive chairman.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the police are still investigating NFCorp which reportedly has several multi-million ringgit properties in Malaysia and Singapore.

On the call from the Wanita chief that more seats be allocated to women, Najib said this would depend on the situation and whether the potential candidates could win.

"Although we want more women to be put forward, we have to look at the micro point of view first," he said, adding that gender was not the main factor when selecting candidates.

On whether Barisan Nasional mentris besar have been asked to prepare a list of potential candidates, Najib said: "Even if there is such a directive, we won't disclose it as it is a trade secret."

Earlier in his speech, he paid tribute to Wanita Umno, describing the wing as the backbone of the party machinery.

He urged the wing to close ranks and be prepared for the coming general election.

"We should not allow Putrajaya to fall into the hands of the Opposition as we have sacrificed a lot for the people," he said, adding that he was confident that Johor would continue to be a Barisan stronghold and "fixed deposit state" for the coalition.

Najib said Umno had undergone five crises the departure of founding president Datuk Onn Jaafar who quit to form a new party, the May 1969 racial riots, the banning of the party in 1987, the street demonstrations which followed the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the poor performance in 2008.

"We are at a crossroads and if we do not pass through this hurdle the repercussions will be bad for us," he said.

In her speech, Shahrizat said the wing should not be taken for granted and asked for more women candidates to be fielded.

“We are not interested in tokenism, and although there are many new policies made to benefit women in the country, only 7% to 10% of politicians are women,” she said.

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