

**Concerted Efforts Needed To Help Needy - Rosmah
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ALOR SETAR, March 23 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor has called for concerted efforts by all quarters including government agencies, the corporate sector and non-governmental organisations to help the less fortunate.

This move is similar to that taken by the Kedah Girl Guides Association in cooperating with the Prisons Department to market handicrafts and food products produced by female prison inmates.

Rosmah, who is also the Girl Guides Association of Malaysia president, said such efforts would assist female inmates to become successful entrepreneurs after they were released from prison.

"I am proud of such efforts and hope the community can shed negative perception of these inmates to enable them to return to society and lead a normal life.

"I believe such activities will also bring the young like the Girl Guides together, building comradeship, a caring spirit and sense of responsibility in carrying out charitable and community work," she said at the launch of the Kedah Girl Guides "turun padang" programme at the Alor Setar Prison.

Rosmah said for the Girl Guides, it was an invaluable lesson as it opened up their minds, thus developing stronger character and more dynamic personality.

"I was told that other Girl Guides, other than in Kedah, have also gone down to the ground to carry out community work. We should take pride in such competitiveness and hope that they think of other suitable programmes for the benefit of the local community," she added.

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